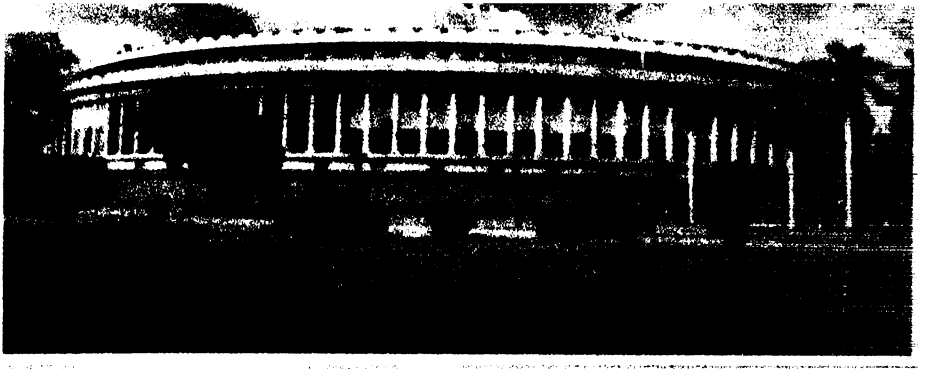
The Journal of Parliamentary Information



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT, NEW DELHI

THE JOURNAL OF PARLIAMENTARY INFORMATION

EDITOR: P.D.T. Achary

The Journal of Parliamentary Information, a quarterly publication brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, aims at the dissemination of authoritative information about the practices and procedures in Indian and foreign Legislatures. The *Journal* serves as an authentic recorder of important parliamentary events and activities. It provides a useful forum to members of Parliament and State Legislatures and other experts for the expression of their views and opinions, thereby contributing to the development and strengthening of parliamentary democracy in the country.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

On 15 August 2007, the nation rejoiced and celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Independence from the foreign rule. The eventful journey towards Independence that has been traversed brought in its trail violent upheavals and traumatic displacements. But, as a nation we were able to emerge as a stable, inclusive democracy with one of the best drafted Constitutions as the guiding star. During these sixty years, we have made rapid strides in the overall socio-economic development; yet we have a long way to go to realize our cherished dream of making our country the best in the comity of nations.

To commemorate this auspicious day, a function was organized in the Central Hall of Parliament House. A number of dignitaries and eminent personalities attended the function which commenced with the playing of the National Anthem. Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, and his sons Sarvashri Amaan Ali Khan and Ayaan Ali Khan rendered on *Sarod* the favourite *bhajans* of Mahatma Gandhi, "*Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye*" and *Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram'*. Shri Javed Akhtar recited a poem '*Pandrah August'* and its English translation 'Fifteen August' was recited by Smt. Shabana Azmi. Pandit Jasraj and troupe sang a song, '*Aadhi raat mein suraj'* and the National song, '*Vande Mataram'*. A documentary film on Independence prepared by the Lok Sabha Television was also screened on the occasion.

During the function, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; and the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the distinguished gathering. We reproduce in this issue of the *Journal* the text of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

The year 2007 was indeed an eventful year. India has had the privilege of hosting the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at New Delhi from 21 to 30 September 2007. It was hosted jointly by the India Union CPA Branch and the State CPA Branches. The main theme of the Conference was '*Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development'*. The Conference was attended by about 800 parliamentarians, legislators, Observers, Clerks/Secretaries-General, Secretaries of the Legislatures, invitees, spouses and accompanying persons from the Commonwealth, including delegates representing the CPA India Region and State Branches. The Conference was a huge success and the

arrangements made were highly appreciated by the delegates and the dignitaries who had attended the same.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, inaugurated the Conference on 25 September 2007 at Vigyan Bhawan. The President also released a Commemorative Souvenir brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to mark the Conference. Preceding the Plenary Conference, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari inaugurated the 27th Small Countries' Conference of the CPA on 23 September 2007. The First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference, which also preceded the Plenary Conference, was inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee on 24 September 2007. On the same day, an Exhibition on the theme of the Conference was also inaugurated by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. We include in this issue of the *Journal* a Short Note on the activities of the Conference.

It may be recalled that in the year 1995, the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) initiated an Award to be conferred on an Outstanding Parliamentarian in honour of his / her contributions towards strengthening of the parliamentary democracy in the country. The first such Award for the year 1995 was bestowed on the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Chandra Shekhar on 12 December 1995. Subsequently, Sarvashri Somnath Chatterjee, Pranab Mukherjee, S. Jaipal Reddy, Lal Krishna Advani, Arjun Singh, Jaswant Singh and Dr. Manmohan Singh were conferred the Award for the years, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002, respectively.

On 13 September 2007, at a function held in the Central Hall of Parliament House, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented the Award to Shri Sharad Pawar, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Sarvashri Palaniappan Chidambaram and Mani Shankar Aiyar for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively.

On this occasion, the distinguished gathering was addressed by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil; Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee. The text of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries at the function are included in this issue of the *Journal*.

To inculcate and encourage good reading habit among children and to enable them to share the resources of the Parliament Library, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, inaugurated a well-designed,

colourful and hi-tech Children's Corner in the Parliament Library on 21 August 2007. The idea of setting up a Children's Corner was mooted earlier by the Speaker, Lok Sabha with the intention of making children understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas by making available the literature of high standard for them.

The Inaugural function was attended by the dignitaries including the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury; the Vice-President of Parliamentary Forum on Children, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy; members of Parliament; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T Achary; the then Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain; Principals of various Schools; and Heads of prominent NGOs and others. On the occasion, children of Bal Bhawan presented a cultural programme. We include in this issue of the *Journal* a Short Note on the above-mentioned event.

On 21 August 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee unveiled the statue of the famous ruler of Mewar, Maharana Pratap in the precincts of the Parliament House. In another function on 11 September 2007, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil unveiled the statue of Kittur Rani Channamma in the Parliament House Complex. Rani Channamma was one of the first women freedom fighters to take up cudgels against the British rule in the early years of our national movement. We include Short Notes on both these events in this issue of the *Journal.*

We also carry in this issue the other regular features, *viz.* Parliamentary Events and Activities, Privilege Issues, Procedural Matters, Parliamentary and Constitutional Developments, Documents of Constitutional and Parliamentary Interest, Sessional Review, Recent Literature of Parliamentary Interest and Appendices.

In our constant pursuit of making the *Journal* more enriching and useful, we always look forward to suggestions for its further improvement. We also welcome practice and problem oriented, non-partisan articles in the field of parliamentary procedures and practices, the functioning of parliamentary institutions and other subjects of parliamentary interest from members of Parliament and State Legislatures, scholars and all others interested in the field of parliamentary political science.

—P.D.T. Achary
Editor

ADDRESSES AT THE FUNCTION TO MARK THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE HELD IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

A grateful nation rejoiced and celebrated the 60th Anniversary of Independence from foreign rule. To commemorate the occasion, a function was organized in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 15 August 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Vice-President and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; and the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil addressed the distinguished gathering. The above highest constitutional authorities of the country paid glowing tributes to the supreme sacrifices made by the known and unknown heroes of the freedom struggle. While reflecting on the sixty years of process of democratic consolidation and successful functioning of democratic system in the country, the eminent luminaries also introspected on the contemporary issues and challenges before the nation.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the distinguished dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Respected Rashtrapatiji; Respected Up-Rashtrapatiji; Respected Pradhan Mantriji; President of the Bundestag, Dr. Norbert Lammert; Honourable Members of Parliament and Distinguished Guests:

I deem it a great honour and privilege to welcome you all this evening to this historic occasion as we are commemorating the 60th Anniversary of our Independence. It is indeed befitting that we have all assembled here in this historic Central Hall of Parliament House, where the Constituent Assembly met to draw up our Constitution, providing for Parliamentary Democracy as the system of our governance, where the people elect their representatives to the Parliament, which occupies the pivotal position in our constitutional set up. I am extremely happy to welcome you all, when we are crossing yet another major milestone in our great nation's long and chequered history.

It was in this very Hall that our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, sixty years ago, referred to the emergence of 'a nation to life and

freedom as the world slept' and announced India's 'Tryst with destiny'. The year 2007 is historic not merely because we are celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of our Independence. It also marks the 150th Anniversary of our First War of Independence and the Birth Centenary of the legendary Bhagat Singh, one of the greatest heroes of our freedom movement. The First War of Independence was a decisive event in our long and arduous struggle for freedom. The supreme sacrifice made by heroes like young Bhagat Singh and Shaheed Khudiram, inspired the nation as a whole. It was the result of such countless sacrifices and fight for freedom under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and the struggle launched by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and other National Leaders that we won our freedom and emerged as a strong and self-respecting Nation of enormous potentials today. Their unforgettable contributions will remain etched in golden letters in the pages of history. They gave up their 'present' so that the Nation could have a 'future'. We pay our respectful homage to the memory of generations of our martyrs and freedom fighters.

The eventful journey towards Independence that has been traversed, brought in its trail violent upheavals and traumatic displacements, but as a Nation we were able to emerge as a stable, inclusive Democracy with one of the best drafted Constitutions as our Guiding Star. The challenges were enormous but they were accepted with the seriousness and commitment called for by our revered Leaders, who were of unmatched stature and eminence.

Today there is certainly much to celebrate. We have taken major strides in our national endeavour for development and poverty-alleviation and have succeeded in large measure in taking the benefits of development to substantial sections of our people. We are a power to be reckoned with in the comity of nations because of the great progress we have made, through our democratic structures and processes. When India is referred to as the largest working Democracy and as an emerging economic giant, we feel justifiably proud.

We can and will surge ahead further to eradicate all our problems and to wipe out the tears from the eyes of the poor, as the Father of the Nation had dreamt and to bring about the 'emotional integration' of the diverse people of our country as Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had visualized and to enrich our political democracy as was contemplated by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Our objective continues to be the establishment of a just, humane and inclusive society with equal rights for all and on this solemn occasion we must pledge ourselves once again to implement, in a more comprehensive and inclusive manner, the spirit underlying our Constitution,

which is distinguished by its overarching concern for the development for all and by strict adherence to the democratic norms.

India has committed itself to achieving its 5-year Development Plans. We are now into the 11th Plan Period and are also working towards realizing the UN sponsored Millennium Development Goals. However, we can achieve the Development Goals only if our democratic edifice is preserved in its pristine glory and dignity and if the Parliament and the Representative Institutions and the other Organs of the State enjoy the full faith and confidence of the people they are meant to serve. Unfortunately, there are some troubling signs of deterioration of standards. It is imperative for us to rededicate ourselves to remove the distortions and deficiencies that have crept into our democratic structures and concomitant systems. We owe it to our people, who have shown great abilities and wisdom, to work with total commitment with the hallmarks of efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability. We should all emphasise on matters which unite us than issues which divide us. Let our Representative Institutions and the other Organs of the State and the Media, be models for the rest of the world and let us all together work with sincerity and commitment towards providing good governance. Let us forge ahead confidently in a manner that the hearts and minds of all our leaders and citizens are imbued with the unequivocal zeal of taking India to greater and greater heights of excellence and achievement.

I wish all of you and our Nation the very best.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Honourable President; Honourable Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Honourable Members of Parliament and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Sixty years ago the voice of the people of India found its true and free expression in these hallowed premises. In the early hours of that historic day Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru asked the people of free India to march forward "with faith and confidence in this great adventure" of building a secular, democratic and modern India.

Inspired by the unique personality of a great soul, Mahatma Gandhi, our freedom fighters gave us a Constitution of which we are all truly proud. As Babasaheb Ambedkar said in the last session of the Constituent Assembly, our Constitution has given us not just a political democracy,

but also a social democracy, guaranteeing equality of all and empowerment of the weak and the marginalized.

Every citizen of this great Republic has cherished our hard won freedom because it is only as a secular democracy committed to social justice that we have been able to empower the poorest of the poor in this ancient land of ours.

The building of a free, democratic India has been one of the greatest adventures of humankind this past century. In these sixty years, we have done much and we have achieved much. Yet, we have some distance to travel before we can say that we have fulfilled Gandhiji's dream of wiping the last tear of the poorest of the poor. This remains our sacred duty as the representatives of our people.

Today, when we look back and look around, I believe we can say with some sense of satisfaction that India is on the move. There is a new dynamism in our people; a new sense of confidence in their capabilities; a new sense of hope in their collective future. They recognize we have a long road ahead in our tryst with destiny; and more to be done to redeem our pledge in full measure.

However, the people of India also know that they can do it. This new sense of confidence; this new outburst of energy of our people, has to be harnessed and channelised in the right direction for India to regain its due place in the comity of modern nations.

As I have often said, the world today wants India to do well. The world community wishes us well. Our external situation is benign and favourable. Our challenges are at home. There is no other institution more powerful than the Parliament of India in addressing these challenges we face at home.

On this solemn day, as we mark the 60th anniversary of our Independence, I urge every member of Parliament, every legislator, every member of every panchayat and municipality to resolve to translate our hard won freedom into true freedom for all. Let us resolve to create an environment in which the creativity and enterprise of our people can find its full and free expression. Let us resolve not to pursue divisive agendas, not to weaken our nation and society by dividing our people on narrow caste, communal, linguistic and regional lines. Unity in diversity are the wall and roof of the fabric of our nationhood.

Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the service of India is nothing more than the service of the millions who suffer. Every elected representative must remember this motto every day. I would like to see an India of

greater equality, an India less argumentative and more cooperative, an India that works hard with a sense of purpose and devotion.

It should be our common and collective endeavour to ensure that every one of our citizens is educated and skilled so that every one is gainfully employed. Equality of opportunity in securing education is the best and the most durable means of social empowerment and social justice. Every child, irrespective of caste, creed, religion or region, must have reasonable assurance of access to modern education and acquisition of requisite skills.

From times immemorial, India has been at the forefront of the evolution of human knowledge. We need to promote a scientific outlook, inculcate a scientific temper and foster a more enlightened and modern outlook in our people. We should once again regain that position as a modern, knowledge-based culture where science and technology are used to overcome age-old problems of mass poverty, ignorance and disease. Our agriculture is urgently in need of a second green revolution. We need to forge ahead with labour intensive industrialization and the development of a knowledge-based economy. We ought to be mindful of the welfare of all people and specially of our ecological inheritance, our environment and our natural wealth and resources.

For all the benefits of development to reach the poor, it is essential that the delivery systems of the Government, at all levels, are more efficient and purged of corruption. The cancer of corruption must be extinguished if democracy and development have to have a real meaning for our people.

This Parliament has a very important role to play for attaining the national goals of development and progress. The representatives of our people have to ensure that all the institutions of our Republic—the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive—are all responsive, accountable, transparent and honest in their functioning. This much we owe to our people and to all those who sacrificed their lives to give us our precious freedom sixty years ago.

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA, SHRI MOHAMMAD HAMID ANSARI

Honourable Rashtrapatiji, Honourable Pradhan Mantriji, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Honourable Members of Parliament, Distinguished Guests, Excellencies and Ladies and Gentlemen:

Anniversaries are occasions for rejoicing, and for introspection. We rejoice over our achievements and successes; we introspect about our limitations and failures.

The reasons for rejoicing are evident. Sixty years after 1947, India's progress is evident. Doubts about our capability have given way to certitude. Our achievements in every sector of national activity are noteworthy. We are a nation of consequence in the comity of nations, respected and sought after.

Equally evident are grounds for introspection. The point of reference has to be the Preamble to our Constitution and the three objectives inscribed in it: Justice, Liberty and Equality. The content of each is spelt out. Justice has to be dispensed in social; economic and political terms; liberty has to be of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; equality means equality of status and opportunity.

Record shows that we have achieved each of these in considerable measure; scrutiny reveals that much more needs to be done. Noticeable sections of our population remain deprived of an equitable share in the fruits of development, their aspirations of a better life unfulfilled. The hope, nevertheless, remains. They may agree with the contents of an Urdu couplet:

Ab bhi khizan ka raj hai lekin kahin kahin
Goshe chaman chaman main ghazal-khwan huai to hain

We need to ponder over other matters too. There was an apprehension in the early years of independence of physical balkanization; it proved to be unfounded. A more distressing trend, increasingly evident, is the balkanization of the mind. It needs to be addressed. The challenge is to promote Indianness in all its diversity.

Our success in establishing and sustaining procedural democracy is acknowledged. Gandhiji reminded us of some pitfalls. Democracy, he said, "is a great institution and therefore it is liable to be greatly abused. The remedy therefore is not avoidance of democracy but reduction of possibility of abuse to a minimum". Substantive democracy would also need a much greater measure of justice in terms of participation and representation.

The same holds for the governance. Civil society vigilance provides a badly needed corrective. The growth in public awareness is to be welcomed; its content, however, needs to be substantive rather than sensational.

Our objective of a plural society, a democratic polity and a secular state structure has to be reaffirmed and reinvigorated. Each of these is a source of strength; together they demonstrate the uniqueness of our system.

The generation that fought for independence is all but gone. Those who consolidated the gains of freedom through difficult decades contributed their share in full measure. India of the future, however, principally belongs to the youth. They would shape it through their vision, aspiration and hard work. They must not succumb to the temptations of cynicism in regard to civic institutions.

Today, on the 60th anniversary of our Independence, we pay homage to the countless men and women who made sacrifices in the quest for freedom. Today, we rededicate ourselves to their ideals and pledge ourselves to the building of modern India.

Jai Hind!

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL

Honourable Vice-President, Honourable Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Members of the Union Council of Ministers, Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Members of Parliament, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, we celebrate an important event in the history of India. On this day sixty years ago, there was jubilation as the long struggle against foreign rule had culminated in the freedom of India. This year we also celebrate another historic event in India's path to freedom as we mark the 150th anniversary of the War of Independence of 1857. We bow our heads in reverence to pay tribute to the brave men and women of that era. I can quote a few names like Mangal Pandey, Tatia Tope, Rani Lakshmibai, Begum Hazrat Mahal and Kittur Rani Channamma, but there remain many more whose supreme sacrifices had shown us the road to freedom.

This unique moment in history provides us an opportunity to look at the past with pride and to the future with hope and confidence. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, at the dawn of India's freedom, while addressing the nation said, and I quote, "It is fitting that at this solemn moment, we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the still larger cause of humanity." Unquote. Let us reaffirm our commitment to work with determination and dedication for a glorious future of India.

On this day, let us remember the devotion and sacrifice of our freedom fighters and pay homage to them. We shall forever remain indebted for their selfless service. Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Subramaniam

Bharathi, C. Rajagopalachari, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and many others have immortalised themselves in the pages of our country's history. We must not forget the brave women of this nation who participated in the freedom struggle, who were not secondary to the men, but equals in their zeal and commitment to the cause of freedom. Prominent among them were Kasturba Gandhi, Sarojini Naidu, Aruna Asaf Ali, along with many others.

India's freedom came not by the efforts of a few, but with the united support of multitudes—those millions of unknown and unsung champions of our freedom. We gratefully pay our homage to them and ensure that they inspire us today to dedicate ourselves to the cause of upholding those timeless values of freedom, tolerance, justice, equality and harmony and pledge to build a strong and modern India of the 21st Century.

Dr. Ambedkar said, and I quote, "Democracy is not merely a form of Government. It is primarily a mode of associated living, of conjoint communicated experience. It is essentially an attitude of respect and reverence towards fellowmen." The multi-lingual, multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic character of India continues to be our greatest strength and the harmonious co-existence of such diversity remains an exemplary role model for the world at large.

Today, India stands at the threshold of a new era of progress. We are witnessing historically unprecedented rates of economic growth. It should be our combined endeavour to sustain this growth and ensure that it is socially inclusive, particularly for the disadvantaged and the marginalised. We must ensure that every region of the country participates in and benefits from the process of economic growth that is destined to transform India.

In agriculture and allied sectors, modern technology and improved farm practices can further sustain the gains in these areas and ensure food security for our future generations.

In modern India, development in all sectors of industry have shown remarkable achievements. We should continue to march ahead to scale new heights in the face of stiff global competition.

To realise the full potential of our people, we must invest in their capabilities and empower them with modern education and comprehensive health care. We must continue our campaign against poverty, ignorance and disease and seek a better future for the coming generations.

Education should be one of our primary focus areas. Every citizen of this country–man or woman, boy or girl–must be given the opportunity

to be educated. Universal education is the key to a prosperous and successful India. Demographically India has one of the world's youngest populations, and the active participation of the youth and empowering them with education is necessary to eliminate the social evils that spring from ignorance.

We have a glorious history in art and culture. We are duty bound to pass on this proud legacy to our younger generation. We should expose them to the treasure of great Indian art and culture and help them inherit our traditional and moral values and basic tenets of humanism.

As we move into the seventh decade of our Independence, let us ensure that the pride in our nation's democratic traditions does not give way to complacency. Parliament is the edifice of democracy and freedom, representing the will of the people. It therefore becomes important that our Parliamentarians efficiently meet the aspirations of our people. For our efforts to yield results, we need to improve implementation mechanisms of our programmes. Corruption today poses a grave challenge to our system and it is time that the nation begins to determinedly combat this menace.

As we surge ahead on the path of growth and development, the world today is compelled to take notice of this awakening power that is India. India has a crucial role to play in the world order. As a nation we have always believed in, the world is one and humanity is a single family. The world, in this hour of uncertainty and darkness, plagued by wars and terrorism, can take inspiration from India and our commitment to values such as non-violence and tolerance. India is committed in its resolve to foster friendly ties with the nations of the world and together with the international community work towards a united and prosperous world.

Thus, on this sixtieth anniversary of our Independence, let us pledge to dedicate ourselves to the welfare and happiness of the people of India, and humanity at large.

Jai Hind!

ADDRESSES AT THE CONFERMENT OF THE OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN AWARDS 2003, 2004, 2005 AND 2006

A function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 was held on 13 September 2007 in the Central Hall of Parliament House.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil presented the Awards to Shri Sharad Pawar, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Sarvashri Palaniappan Chidambaram and Mani Shankar Aiyar for the year 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary read out the Citations in respect of the Outstanding Parliamentarians. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil; the Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and the distinguished Awardees addressed the function.

We reproduce below the texts of the Addresses delivered by the dignitaries on the occasion.

—Editor

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER, LOK SABHA, SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

Respected Madam President; Respected Up-Rashtrapatiji; Respected Pradhan Mantriji; Distinguished Recipients of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award; Honourable Members of Parliament; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I deem it a great privilege to welcome all of you to this function to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006. We are extremely grateful to the Respected President for her kind consent to confer the Awards on the Outstanding Parliamentarians. We are also thankful to our Respected Up-Rashtrapati*ji* and our Respected Pradhan Mantri*ji* for their kind presence.

This morning Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, are being honoured with the Awards. All of them are accomplished Parliamentarians, who have distinguished themselves in our national life through their leadership,

knowledge of parliamentary practices and procedures, oratorial skills, and more importantly their commitment to the finest values that permeate our parliamentary life. I have great pleasure in welcoming them to this function and I heartily compliment each one of them on being chosen as Outstanding Parliamentarian by their own peers.

The Indian Parliamentary Group instituted the Award to promote sound democratic culture and to emphasise on the qualities that a parliamentarian should possess. All the Honourable members who are receiving the Award today, eminently deserve this honour being bestowed upon them.

Shri Sharad Pawar, who has been selected for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2003, is one of the most accomplished parliamentarians and administrators in the country. Since 1967, when he started his legislative career, he has been a member of the State Legislature of Maharashtra or the National Parliament. A four-time Chief Minister of the State of Maharashtra, one of the senior-most Ministers at the Centre who has headed key Ministries, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and both Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature and a member of various Parliamentary Committees, he has articulated his considered views in our Legislative Chambers and exercised a determining impact on the legislative and policy-making processes over the years. Shri Sharad Pawar is held in high esteem by leaders cutting across political affiliations and his informed and well-reasoned speeches in Parliament on diverse issues are heard in rapt attention by all sections of the House. His choice as an Outstanding Parliamentarian is indeed befitting his stature and status.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who is being conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2004, is well-versed in parliamentary rules and procedures, and has displayed her great debating skills and legal acumen to bear on shaping the tone and tenor of debates in the House. She is always listened to with interest for her ability to marshal facts and cogent arguments. Besides holding various ministerial and other positions in the State of Haryana and the office of the Chief Minister of Delhi, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj has also held charge of the important Ministries in the Union Government. She has also worked with great commitment in various Parliamentary Committees, leaving a distinctive mark on their functioning. It is a testimony to her outstanding skills as a legislator that she was adjudged the best speaker in the Haryana Legislative Assembly for three consecutive years.

Shri P. Chidambaram, who has rightly been chosen for the Outstanding

Parliamentarian Award for the year 2005, is endowed with those rare qualities which make an eminent and ideal parliamentarian. He is a legal luminary, who is also regarded greatly for his mastery over a wide array of subjects. As a Union Minister holding charge of the crucial portfolios, he has impressed all with his administrative skills and initiatives in policy-making. He has also been a very proactive member of several Parliamentary Committees. Shri Chidambaram's remarkable articulation, analytical excellence, and respect for parliamentary traditions are indeed highly commendable.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, who has been conferred the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2006, is known for his thorough knowledge of the varied dimensions of the issues before the nation and his deep understanding of India and the world history. He handles the most complex matters on the floor of the House with consummate ease and great élan. An impressive speaker, he has made a mark for his oratory, flawless diction, quick repartee and his inimitable wit and humour. He has also been a distinguished diplomat, well-known political columnist and author of several acclaimed books. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is indeed a worthy choice for the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.

The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group, underscores the basic postulate of democracy that we all have onerous responsibilities as elected representatives of the people whose trust and faith are paramount in a parliamentary polity. It also warrants that we should go far beyond the confines of our political and social identities to channelize the spirit of the country's progressive vision across the length and breadth of the nation. It is the fundamental duty of every parliamentarian to discharge their duties with commitment for the interest of the people. To be effective parliamentarians, the members are required to use various procedural devices and opportunities available to them in a responsible and proactive manner.

It is obvious that our effectiveness as parliamentarians depends much on the sincerity, commitment and ability with which we are able to use various opportunities available in Parliament to influence the Executive action in evolving timely and constructive solutions to the problems that our people face. Only by meaningful participation in parliamentary debates and Committee work, we can truly serve the people. Disruptionist and confrontationist attitude is neither in the interest of the system nor of the people. Of late, unfortunately, there is a

perception that the atmosphere in our Legislatures is not in consonance with due discharge of members' duties to the society and that the quality of debates as also the behaviour of our members is not up to the desired level. It is indeed a disturbing trend, which tends to demoralize and dishearten the people at large. If we have to retain the trust of the people in our functioning and commitment to our democratic structure, we cannot allow such debilitating trends to continue. We should realize that by our proper conduct and behaviour both inside and outside the Legislatures alone we can evoke respect and, appreciation of the people; otherwise our people, particularly the youth, will lose their faith in our parliamentary system and representative institutions. Unethical conduct and disruptive behaviour, will seriously undermine the very edifice of our democratic structure.

It is in this context that the conferment of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards on Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar assumes added significance. Through their illustrious parliamentary career, each one of them has helped to build on our reputation as the largest working democracy in the world. These distinguished recipients have not only created a distinctive image as parliamentarians but have also been contributing in their own ways to the onward march of parliamentary democracy and towards nation-building.

Their many-splendoured service to our parliamentary life will, I am sure, inspire fellow parliamentarians and our younger generations to discharge their duties in a befitting manner, worthy of being people's representatives.

With these words, I once again congratulate the Awardees who all richly deserve this honour and I welcome you all once again to this function.

Thank you.

Subsequently, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary read out the following Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2003 on Shri Sharad Pawar.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2003

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR, M.P.

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR has been a distinguished public figure in our national life for more than four decades. A sagacious political leader, a renowned parliamentarian, and an outstanding administrator, SHRI SHARAD PAWAR has shown courage and determination to chart his own course in the vast political map of India. Rational and progressive in thought and deeds, he has, with tireless enthusiasm and tenacity of purpose, made significant contributions in strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country.

A people's leader par excellence, who has retained their confidence ever since he entered politics in 1967, SHRI SHARAD PAWAR has, by his righteous conduct and unimpeachable character, enriched our public life. A dynamic leader with a strong grassroot support base, he has a rare understanding of the pulse of the people and their needs and urges. All through his illustrious public career, he has addressed the interests and concerns of the common man with a sensitive and humane approach. SHRI SHARAD PAWAR has won approbation from all sections of political opinion for his practical wisdom and down-to-earth appeal, which set him apart from many of his contemporaries. His idea of a progressive and modern Maharashtra, his pioneering strategies for its economic and industrial transformation, and his innovative administrative policies in leading the most industrialized State for four terms as its Chief Minister speak volumes of his sagacity and far-sightedness.

A seasoned parliamentarian, SHRI SHARAD PAWAR is a shining example of the finest traditions of our parliamentary life. He made his mark as a member of the Houses of the Maharashtra Legislature; he was also a vigilant Leader of the Opposition in the two Houses. As a member of the Lok Sabha for six terms, and also as the Leader of the Opposition in the Twelfth Lok Sabha. SHRI SHARAD PAWAR has shown great maturity in dealing with complex political issues. His speeches in Parliament are well known for their straightforwardness and lucidity. They reflect his extraordinary grasp of details. He has also lent his considerable experience and expertise in strengthening our Parliamentary Committees. Over the years, he has held charge of several important portfolios in the Union Cabinet with great distinction. Today, as the Union Minister of Agriculture, and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. SHRI SHARAD PAWAR is striving zealously to safeguard the interests of our farmers, which proves his mettle as a very effective and astute negotiator on their behalf.

Considering his long and distinguished parliamentary career, it is most appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2003 on SHRI SHARAD PAWAR.

NEW DELHI;
September 13, 2007
Bhadrapada 22, 1929 (Saka)

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil then Conferred the Award on Shri Sharad Pawar.

ADDRESS BY SHRI SHARAD PAWAR

Honourable President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil, Honourable Vice-President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansariji, Honourable Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjeeji, Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singhji, Honourable Leaders of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha, Distinguished Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured by the decision to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award upon me and I am grateful to the Honourable Speaker and the distinguished panel for the nomination. It is a privilege to receive this distinction from the highest forum of democracy in the country. What adds to my happiness is the fact that I received the award from the Honourable President of India, with whom I have shared many years of my early legislative career. While accepting this mark of recognition with humility, I must say that this unexpected gesture will rank as one of the high points of my tenure as a Member of Parliament.

This Award has earlier been given to some of the most distinguished Parliamentarians of our time, that includes our Honourable Speaker, Shri Somnathji, our senior colleague and former Prime Minister late Shri Chandra Shekhar*ji*, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee*ji*, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh*ji*, Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani*ji*, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh*ji*, Shri Indrajit Gupta*ji* and eminent members from both sides of the House. Today, three more eminent parliamentarians have been similarly honoured and I feel privileged to be in this august company.

As most of you are aware, I started my legislative career 40 years ago when I was elected to the State Legislative Assembly in 1967. From that day till today, I have served either as a representative to the Legislative Assembly or to the Parliament without a single day's break. On this important occasion, today, I remember my mentor late Shri Y.B. Chavan, a great son of this country, a valiant freedom fighter, capable administrator and effective parliamentarian who has been a role model and a constant source of inspiration. During the early phase of our political life, he instilled in us the importance of thorough preparation and in-depth knowledge of the relevant facts while participating in debates and discussions. From him we learnt the basics of parliamentary etiquette

and decorum and to always focus on the larger public life. He taught us the value of respecting every member of Parliament, irrespective of his political affiliation, and emphasized clarity of thought, both in policy-making as well as in discussions within the House.

While thanking all of you for this mark of recognition, it is only appropriate that I also thank the people of Baramati, whom I have had the privilege of representing in the Assembly since 1967 and in the Lok Sabha since 1984. Without the continuous support of the people and voters of my constituency and the State, I would not be here today.

People, not only in our country but across the globe, are proud of our country's democratic traditions and our Parliament is an important pillar that has provided the required strength to such traditions and values. It has inspired millions who have, on several occasions, reposed great faith in the institution. Parliamentary debates have always fascinated those of us who have participated in public affairs in the country. For several decades, we have followed and watched some of the great speakers of the day, debate, discuss, argue and concede many of the defining issues which have shaped modern India. It has been a great learning experience for me personally and I am sure for most of us assembled here today.

Today, I do not wish to dwell on recent events and happenings in the House. However, I feel that it is the responsibility of every member to discharge his duties very seriously and to the best of his abilities so as to justify the trust placed upon all of us by the people of this country. Only then we will send out a positive message to the people to continue their support for this great institution of parliamentary democracy.

In conclusion, I reiterate my sincere thanks for considering me for this honour. I would also like to thank all those who have been colleagues and friends over all these years in Parliament, from whom I have had the opportunity to learn on many important subjects and issues. Certainly, my achievements as a Parliamentarian as well as today's recognition are due to all of you.

Thank you very much.

Thereafter, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2004 on Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2004

PRESENTED

TO

SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ, M.P.

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ has had a distinguished public career spanning more than three decades. She has the distinction of having been the youngest Cabinet Minister in the Government of Haryana and the first woman Chief Minister of Delhi. A forceful orator, she has made notable contributions towards strengthening parliamentary democracy in the country.

Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ has performed her role as a Member of Parliament alternating between the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha and also between the Treasury and the Opposition benches with commendable versatility. She has utilized the parliamentary platform in articulating forcefully the concerns of the people. Whether as a member of the Treasury Benches or of the Opposition she has always upheld the dignity of the parliamentary institutions by her adherence to the rules and norms of conduct. As the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs she ensured meaningful and purposive debates on the floor of the Houses. She is also credited with initiating policies having far reaching effects as the Minister of Information & Broadcasting. Her deep understanding of the functioning of Parliament, her genuine concern for the issues facing the nation, her incisive mind and her powerful articulation of views have provided vibrancy to the debates in the Houses. A great champion of democratic values, she has consciously and ceaselessly strived to uphold the dignity and decorum of Parliament.

Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ has always taken up the challenges and faced them with courage during her long years of service to the nation. Her sensitivity to social issues and sincere devotion to her duties have been admired by all. Her indomitable fighting spirit and her courage of conviction have made her a notable leader in India's public life.

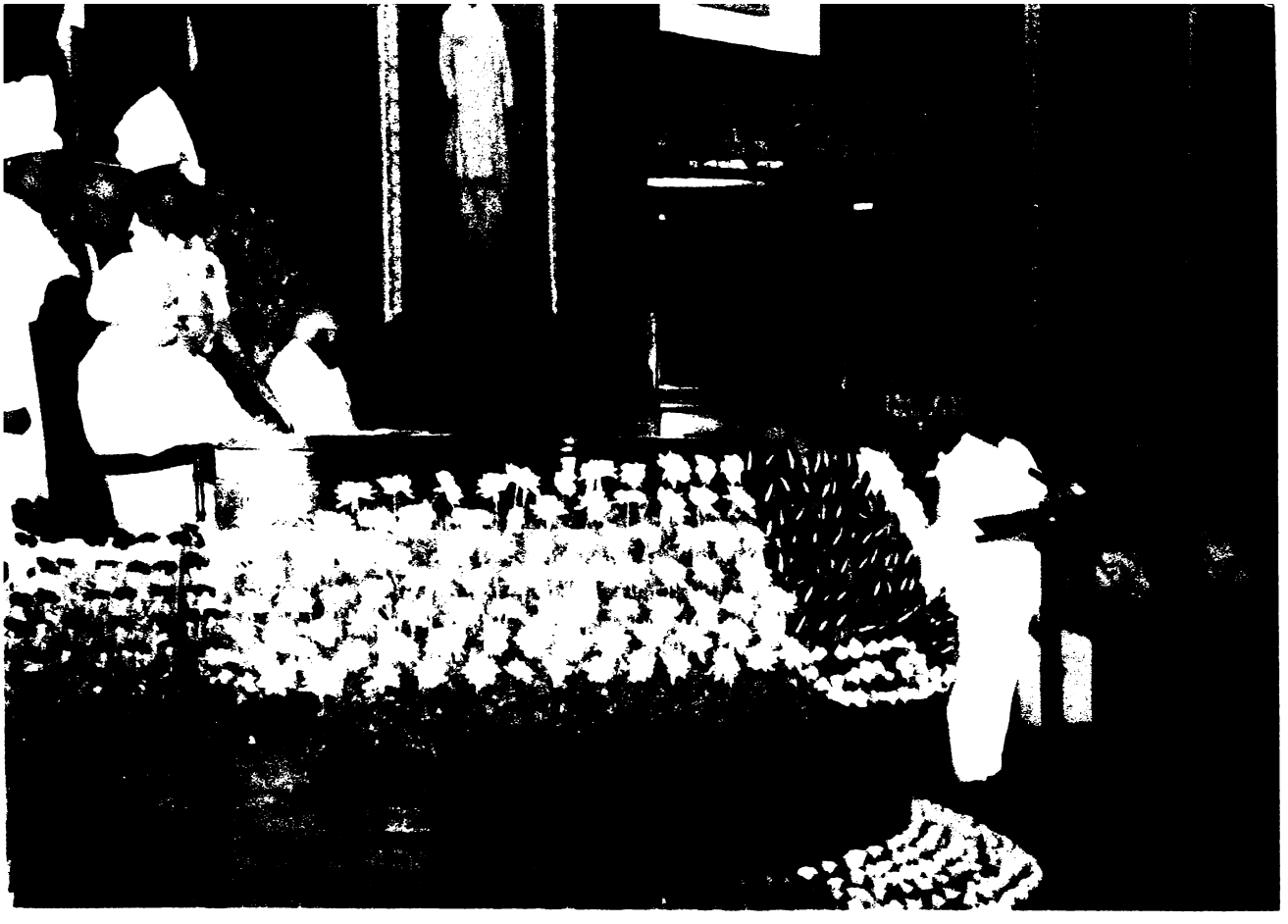
Given her illustrious contributions to public life in various capacities. It is quite befitting that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2004, on Smt. SUSHMA SWARAJ.

NEW DELHI;
September 13, 2007
Bhadrapada 22, 1929 (Saka)

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

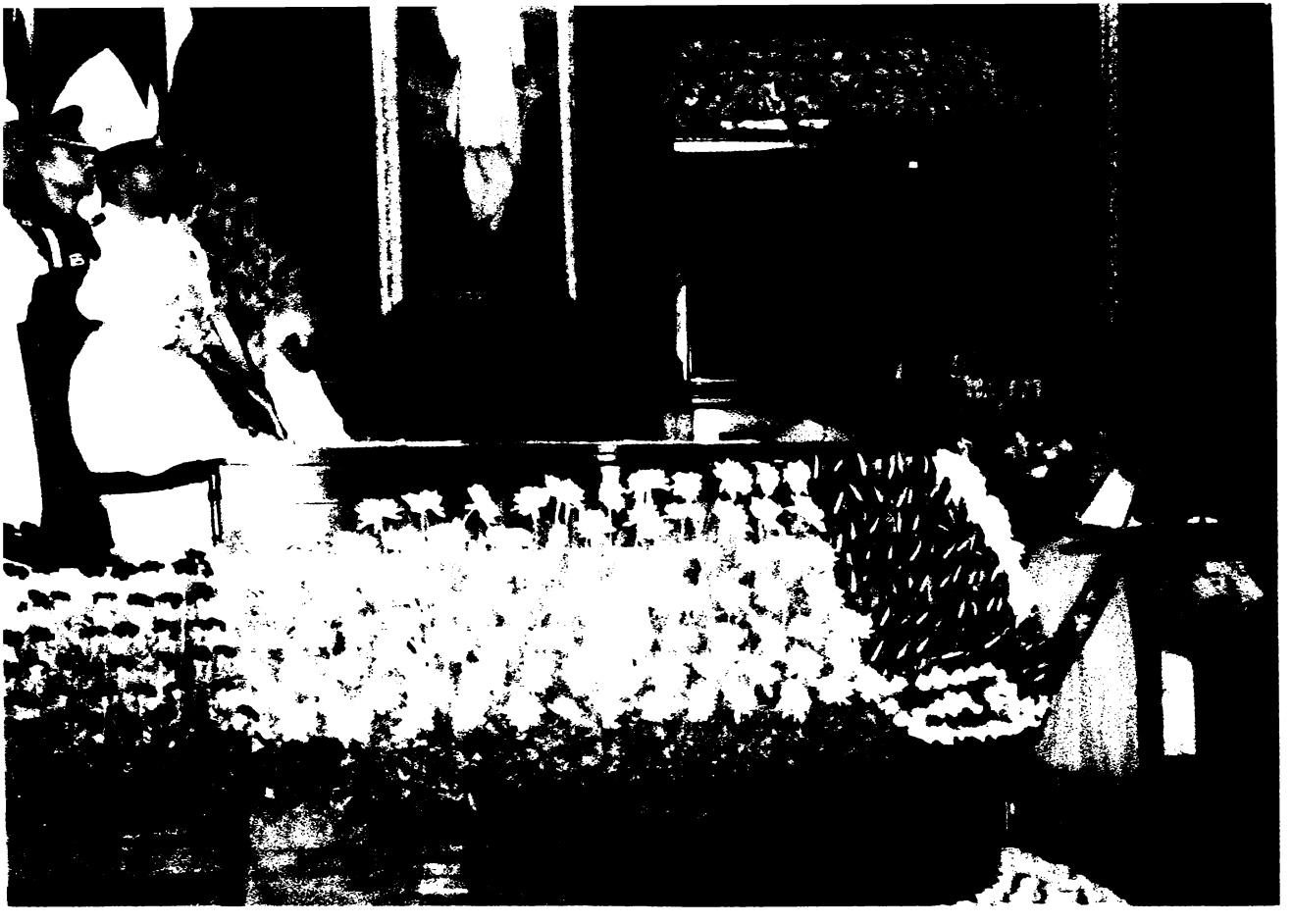
The Speaker. Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG).
Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil conferring the Award on Shri Sharad Pawar



Shri Sharad Pawar addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil conferring the Award on Smt. Sushma Swaraj



Smt. Sushma Swaraj addressing the distinguished gathering

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil conferring the Award on Shri P. Chidambaram

Shri P. Chidambaram addressing the distinguished gathering

The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh delivering his address

The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari delivering his address

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil delivering her address

A view of the distinguished gathering present on the occasion

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil then Conferred the Award on Smt. Sushma Swaraj.

ADDRESS BY SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ*

Her Excellency the President, Honourable Vice-President, Respected Speaker Saheb, Respected Prime Minister, Leaders of Opposition of both the Houses and my dear brothers and sisters present in the Hall:

Though I am a very small person, my colleagues have increased my stature by bestowing me this award. Mixed emotions are emerging in my mind while receiving this award today. I am feeling a bit shy by listening to self-praise in my own presence, but since the award is given by my own colleagues, therefore a feeling of content is also there. With this mixed feeling of shyness and contentment, I express my gratitude to all the members of the Selection Committee who have considered me suitable for this award. All the recipients of the award whose names have been read so far are male Parliamentarians. For the first time the male dominant Selection Committee have found a female member suitable for the award. Therefore, I express my gratitude for your magnanimity. It is also a pleasant coincidence that I have got an opportunity to receive this award from a woman President. I pray to God to give me strength so that I could maintain the dignity of the award because such awards also bring responsibilities and I am fully aware of them. If there is even a slight erosion on the responsibilities, the dignity of the award gets affected. Therefore, on this occasion I give you my word that I will try my best to uphold the dignity of the award.

Thank you.

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary thereafter read out the Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2005 on Shri P. Chidambaram.

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* Original in Hindi

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2005

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI PALANIAPPAN CHIDAMBARAM, M.P.

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI PALANIAPPAN CHIDAMBARAM has been a leading public figure for almost three decades. A multi-faceted personality, he is an eminent parliamentarian, legal luminary, economist, distinguished political leader, powerful orator, original thinker and writer and presently, the Finance Minister of the country.

SHRI PALANIAPPAN CHIDAMBARAM entered the Lok Sabha as a member in 1984 and has served the institution, for six terms, in various capacities and made substantial contribution towards strengthening the parliamentary institutions and the democratic traditions. SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM is a brilliant debater who has the great ability to marshall his arguments to meet the case of his opponents with effortless ease. His debating skill as well as his eloquence remain unmatched. A staunch believer of stimulating discourse inside Legislatures, he has always endeavoured to uphold the dignity and decorum of Parliament. His deep knowledge and understanding of the operational dynamics of our parliamentary system has earned him accolades and recognition.

His deep insight into the state of the economy and his commitment for economic and financial reforms have helped play a decisive role as the Union Finance Minister. Driven by a strong urge for change, SHRI CHIDAMABARAM initiated a number of measures for the economic empowerment of the people. His initiatives have enriched the content of political freedom and brought about transparency and good governance. A firm believer in free trade, he has been a strong votary for a rule-based global trading system for the benefit of all. He has also been addressing, the causes of children and women, the issues very close to his heart.

Shri P. CHIDAMBARAM scrupulously upholds the noble traditions of Parliament and maintains high norms of parliamentary behaviour. He has always conducted himself with great dignity and poise in the House and thus set an example to others. His lucid exposition of complex issues brings great clarity in the debates and elevates its level. Endowed with a sharp mind SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM enhances the intellectual content of Parliamentary debates.

Given his national and international stature, parliamentary experience and notable contributions to parliamentary institutions and development of the nation, it is indeed appropriate that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2005 on SHRI PALANIAPPAN CHIDAMBARAM.

NEW DELHI;
September 13, 2007
Bhadrapada 22, 1929 (Saka)

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil then Conferred the Award on Shri P. Chidambaram.

ADDRESS BY SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM

Excellency Rashtrapatiji; Excellency Up-Rashtrapatiji and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha; Honourable Speaker; Honourable Prime Minister; Honourable Leaders of the Opposition; Fellow Parliamentarians; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am grateful and deeply honoured to receive this award for the year 2005. I accept the award with humility.

Standing here in 2007 and looking back, the year 2005 indeed appears to be a good year for parliamentary democracy when Bills were passed and there were lively and enlightening debates on matters of great importance. Parliament, I submit with respect, has two major functions—the first, to make laws and the second, to debate issues. On the first, I believe we have a respectable score, but the process is deeply flawed; on the second, we need to rediscover the art of reasoned debate.

Democracy is well and alive in India; witness the millions who turn out on every election at every level. It is our recent experience with representative democracy that has cast a shadow of gloom. I remember the day when I first came to Parliament. I remember my leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I recall the affection and support of my constituency, Sivaganga in Tamil Nadu. I came with a belief that parliamentary democracy, especially representative democracy, is the apogee of humankind's urge to devise a model of governance that will reflect our aspirations, life, liberty and equality, and also the pursuit of learning, excellence and happiness. Despite doubts and discordant voices, I remain firm in that belief and I promise all of you, especially my fellow parliamentarians, that as long as I continue as a member of Parliament, I shall contribute my might to make that belief into a reality.

I once again thank all of you.

The Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary then read out the last Citation conferring the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award, 2006 on Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PARLIAMENTARIAN, 2006

PRESENTED

TO

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR, M.P.

BY

THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CITATION

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR has carved out a niche for himself in Indian Politics with a short span of sixteen years of his entry into the political arena. His smooth transformation from a career diplomat to a seasoned parliamentarian can be attributed to his uncanny ability to grasp the essentials of the rules and norms of parliamentary life.

With his originality of thoughts, SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR has established himself as a passionate practitioner of value-based public life. Blessed with a rare power of expression and open-mindedness, SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR has always been intellectually stimulating. As a diplomat, as a public figure, as a columnist and as an author, he has made a mark. He has a sharp intellect which makes his interactions a rewarding experience.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR has shown great commitment to democracy and its institutions. Deeply wedded to its norms and ethos, SHRI AIYAR has proved his mettle as an articulate and enlightened Parliamentarian. Uncompromising on his principles, he has enriched the proceedings of Parliament and its Committees with great skill and panache. His disarming wit and quick repartees and persuasive logic make his interventions in the House an enjoyable experience. Epitomizing the best traditions of parliamentary functioning, strict adherence to high norms of behaviour and respect for dignity and decorum in Parliament, he has earned widespread admiration from one and all.

A staunch secularist and a firm believer of women's empowerment, SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR has been vociferous in expressing his views to strengthen the democratic roots of our nation. With his unflinching faith in development through democracy at grassroots level, SHRI AIYAR worked for providing constitutional backing to the institution of Panchayats. He has a passionate belief in the emergence of Panchayats as creative instruments for the transformation of rural India. His tenacity and quest for learning and hard work have brought in excellence in all spheres of his work.

In recognition at his magnificent contribution to public life and to the institution of Parliament, it is only befitting that the Indian Parliamentary Group should bestow the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award for the year 2006 on SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR.

NEW DELHI;
September 13, 2007
Bhadrapada 22, 1929 (Saka)

INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY GROUP,
PARLIAMENT HOUSE.

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil then Conferred the Award on Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar.

ADDRESS BY SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR

Respected Rashtrapatiji; My Respected and much beloved friend, the Up-Rashtrapatiji; Respected Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Respected Prime Minister, Sir; Respected Leaders of the Opposition; My Fellow Parliamentarians; Your Excellencies, the Ambassadors and High Commissioners present here; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am deeply sensible to the great honour that has been bestowed on me today, but in many ways, I accept this honour with something of a heavy heart for I believe that the single greatest achievement of India in the last sixty years is that we are a full-fledged democracy. Of all the many countries that came to one form of liberation or the other in the last sixty years, ours is the only one to have translated Independence for the country into freedom for our people. Not only that, our democratic institutions reach so far down to the grassroots that in every village, every *basti,* the elected representatives of the people are seeking to determine the destiny of the nation.

We have 2,50,000 elected institutions at the grassroots in our towns, municipalities and in our villages. To them, we have elected 32 lakh representatives—3.2 million representatives—which is more than the population of many countries of the United Nations. And proudest of all, of these 3.2 million elected representatives, no less than 12 lakh or 1.2 million are women. Madam, there are more elected women in India than in the rest of the world put together. That democracy was made possible in this very Hall where you have so greatly honoured me this morning for it was here that Jawaharlal Nehru proclaimed that we had made our tryst with destiny and that we had redeemed the pledge that we had made to ourselves.

It was also in this very hall that the Constitution of India was laboriously, painfully but enrichingly written over a period of close-on three years. Interestingly, the writing of that Constitution—as stated over here on the 9th December 1946—coincided with the birth of the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA). It is that democracy, which is in very very serious danger.

Madam, I remember my very first visit to the Parliament. I was eighteen years old and a student of St. Stephens when I, for the first time, entered the portals of this sacred precinct. I came to the Visitors Gallery, and there I heard Comrade S.A. Dange viciously attacking the

then Prime Minister of India Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on his role in the fall of the first-ever Communist Government in Kerala. The attack involved both his person as well as his political personality, and yet the whole House listened to this attack in pin-drop silence. The Treasury Benches awaited their opportunity to reply. It was then and there that the ambition formed in my heart to somehow one day be on the floor of the House rather than be merely in the Visitors Gallery.

Later, as a Government official sitting in the Official Gallery, there were numerous occasions on which I watched the tensest of proceedings in the calmest of atmosphere. I was in the Official Gallery when the Bill relating to the Abolition of Privy Purses was lost by the Treasury Benches. I was in the Gallery when I heard Shri George Fernandes' outstanding oration at the time when the Government of Shri Morarji Desai was seriously threatened. Subsequently, in 1991, I became a member of the Lok Sabha and I recall as if it was a very very distant event. The battering of brilliance with which we, on the Treasury Benches, were confronted by Shri Vajpayee followed by Shri Advani followed by Shri Chandra Shekhar followed by Shri Indrajeet Gupta followed by the Honourable Speaker of today, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, followed by Shri Sharad Yadav, followed by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. The Treasury Benches were pulverised by this attack, and we had to respond as one Party to the collection of all these distinguished members. It was such a delight to sit on the back-benches and watch how we could attempt to retrieve ourselves from this concerted attack and this battery of wit and wisdom with which the Opposition sought to demolish us.

Sir, I was present at the function when we celebrated Fifty years of our Parliament, and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with his inimitable wit said:

> "कि हम भी नाराज होते थे, लेकिन हमारे जमाने में नाराजगी को दिखाने के लिए हम पीछे से पार्लियामेंट से निकल जाते थे। आज जमाना बदल गया है और जब लोग आपनी नाराजगी को दिखाना चाहते हैं, तो आगे बढ़ते हैं और नीचे उतर आते हैं।"

Sir, we have to get back to somehow running our democracy. It was virtually with tears in my eyes that I heard you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, saying in the House only two days ago that:

> "It is extremely disturbing that the highest public forum in this country has almost come to a standstill, which raises questions about the future of our system of Parliamentary democracy."

Today, you have warned us that:

> "... disruptive behaviour will seriously undermine the very edifice of our democratic structure..."

In my time, Madam—and you have been witness to this as a colleague on the floor of the House—I too have been a serious disruptor. I plead guilty to the charge of having attempted to prevent the House from functioning from time to time. But, sometimes, a reformed sinner is better than a saint. So, as one who has attempted to disrupt our democracy and attempted to learn the lesson that in this great Parliament of ours, it is possible to make one's point without having to disrupt the proceedings, I thank you respected Rashtrapatiji for having conferred this honour on me. I rededicate myself to not ever again disrupting the parliamentary proceedings as also to somehow keeping the smile on my face and the faith in my heart that when disruption does take place order will one day be restored.

Thank you, Sir.

ADDRESS BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA, DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

Respected Rashtrapatiji, Respected Vice-President, Honourable Speaker, Distinguished Awardees, Honourable Members of Parliament, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

I join all of you in complimenting the four distinguished members of Parliament who have been selected for the Best Parliamentarian's Awards. I am sure all of you will agree that each one of them deserves the award, given the important contributions they have made, over the years, to the proceedings in the Parliament and various walks of national life. They have done so both from the Treasury Benches as well as from the Opposition.

I am naturally delighted that three of the four Awardees today are members of my Cabinet. I can vouch for the fact that they have not only contributed handsomely to the proceedings in the Parliament, but also to the functioning of our Government.

Shri Sharad Pawar has been a valued colleague, an experienced and mature guide and a steadfast ally for many many years. Shri Chidambaram is an extremely gifted, talented and hard working member of my Cabinet who has contributed enormously to the implementation of our policies. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has been an energetic spokesman of the third tier of democracy in this first tier reminding us that decentralization of power and development is essential for the success of our democracy. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj is not just a vocal member of the Opposition, but has been an effective Minister in the previous Government. All of them are not just good Parliamentarians, but also have proved to be good administrators. Each one of them, in their own rights, has been a role model.

This year, we celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of our Independence. It is no mean achievement that our system of Parliamentary democracy has withstood not just the test of time, but also the test of our people's faith and conviction. We have much to be proud of, and the success of democratic institutions in India today gives hope to countries all over the world.

I recall the words of President Mr. Hamid Karzai when I had visited Afghanistan some two years ago. President Mr. Karzai, in a public address, had said that:

> "India has more than a billion people with different cultures, religions and languages. By facilitating participation from the people, India has been able to make a stable and pluralistic democracy a reality for Indians. Asian and African countries in general and Afghanistan in particular can learn much from the rich experience of India."

Such is the importance of the example that we set for the future of democracy not just here in our country but across the world at large. I, therefore, hope that each one of our members of Parliament will reflect on the role that they can individually and collectively play in strengthening this great institution of democracy.

In concluding, I call upon our parliamentarians, particularly our younger colleagues, to strive for the very high standards of debate and discussion that have been set by our Outstanding Parliamentarians. It is in this hallowed fountainhead of our democracy that the hopes and aspirations of our people find their highest expression. We owe it to those who have sent us here to do our very best.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA AND CHAIRMAN OF THE RAJYA SABHA, MOHAMMAD HAMID ANSARI

Respected Rashtrapatiji; Honourable Prime Minister; Honourable Speaker, Lok Sabha; Honourable Leaders of Opposition; Distinguished Recipients of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award; Honourable Members of Parliament; Excellencies; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to be here in this function organised to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 2003 to 2006. I thank the Honourable Speaker for inviting me to this function. I also congratulate the Indian Parliamentary Group for instituting this Award.

I extend my heartiest congratulations to Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar for being the distinguished recipients of the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award. All of them have earned a place for themselves in our Parliamentary history for their contribution to strengthen the edifice of our Parliamentary democracy. The timing of this function, by a happy coincidence, is indeed timely since it comes a day after editorial comments in the media which could not but induce depression. The need of the hour, therefore, is to rededicate ourselves to the basic principles of functioning.

Many outstanding Parliamentarians, such as Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Shri Jaipal Reddy, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Shri L.K. Advani, Shri Jaswant Singh, Shri Arjun Singh have been conferred this Award.

Shri Sharad Pawar is a seasoned Parliamentarian with four decades of legislative career. If I may say so, he is an experienced opening batsman in our five-day test match. He has been a distinguished public figure with vast experience in public governance. He is known for his sound understanding of the challenges facing the nation.

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, the sole representative in this distinguished group of the Rajya Sabha, is vastly experienced in parliamentary practice and procedure. Extremely articulate, she demonstrates the depth of understanding and presents her viewpoint with clarity and eloquence.

Shri Chidambaram is a renowned scholar, an eloquent speaker and a zealous reformer. A formidable leader, he has earned wide admiration for his economic reform initiatives. He has created a niche for himself in our parliamentary life with his innate ability and core competence.

Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, a friend and colleague of many years standing, is a Parliamentarian who is a powerful orator, whose skills of eloquence have been appreciated within the country and abroad by all. With his vast parliamentary experience and administrative acumen, he has been serving the country with distinction.

All these outstanding Parliamentarians have one thing in common; it is their commitment to parliamentary democracy and their endeavour to protect and promote the nation's interest. It does not matter whether they are in Opposition or in Government.

Once again, I congratulate all the distinguished recipients and I hope that they become a source of inspiration for others to emulate.

Thank you.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, SMT. PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL

Honourable Vice-President, Honourable Prime Minister, Honourable Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Honourable Members of Parliament, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted to participate in this function and to congratulate Shri Sharad Pawar, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj—especially a lady Parliamentarian—Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar—both of them are very distinguished Parliamentarians—for being awarded the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 respectively. All of them have made exceptional contributions to the debates and proceedings of Parliament. Each one of them has had very distinguished careers as Ministers as well. I had a chance to work with Shri Sharad Pawar in the Maharashtra State Legislative Assembly for many years. I take this as my special privilege to give him the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award today. All the Awardees richly deserve the recognition that is being bestowed on them today.

In a democratic set-up, Parliamentarians represent the will and the voice of the people. The people look up to their representatives for articulating their concerns and also meeting their aspirations. Parliamentarians are a link between the people and the Government. They carry the people's mandate to Parliament. To be faithful to the mandate of the electorate is, thus the primary responsibility of a parliamentarian. Aptly describing the role of a parliamentarian, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in his speech in the Lok Sabha on 28 March 1957 said, and I quote, "There can be no higher responsibility or greater privilege than to be a member of this sovereign body, which is responsible for the fate of the vast number of human beings who live in this country."

Parliament symbolizes a national purpose and it should lead to stability and progress of the nation. The citizens of this country must have full faith and trust in their elected representatives. Any doubt or lack of confidence in their minds about their representatives will undermine the very basis of democracy and unity of our country. Their trust can be reinforced only through statesmanship and dedicated service as people's representatives. For this purpose, let us keep away from political recriminations and work together towards building a strong nation ready to meet the challenges of this century. Thus, the elected representatives could fulfil their leadership role to help achieve a better life for every citizen of this country.

When change takes place, it is natural that everyone asks the question as to how that change would impact their lives. Therefore, in today's rapidly changing world, it would be worthwhile for the members of Parliament to examine how to meet the expectations of the people in a better manner. India's economy is growing at unprecedented high rates. but many sections of our society and many areas of our country are not seeing the fruits of this growth. It is important for the parliamentarians and the society to ensure that benefits are equitably shared. Parliamentarians must look after the interests of the less privileged and the most vulnerable sections of the society who due to their very conditions are the voiceless. It should be the duty of every member of Parliament to stand in support of activities and policies that promote better health and education facilities as also better opportunities for all. Moreover, development policies should be implemented effectively, and projects undertaken should be completed on schedule. People are impatient for growth and, therefore, timely delivery of development works is of utmost importance. Parliamentarians could monitor progress of development schemes through their respective Standing and Consultative Committees.

Parliamentarians also have an important duty to keep the people informed of the actions and activities of the Parliament. This is, in a way, a rendering of accounts to the people. With advances in broadcast technology, the people are "viewing live" the proceedings of Parliament. It is on the basis of what people see, that they form an opinion about the functioning of Parliament and its contribution to policy formulation. The public is ever watchful of the way debates are held and of how the time of Parliament is utilized. I am reminded, in this context, of what Shri G.V. Mavalankar, the first Speaker of the Lok Sabha said, and I quote, "Each one of us has to remember, that howsoever great the difference in viewpoints and methods, we are all meeting here as representatives of the nation, for one common cause, which is, in the language of the Preamble to the Constitution—secure to all its citizens, justice, liberty, equality and fraternity."

India is the world's largest democracy and one of the most stable one. Moreover we have a long and an ancient tradition of democracy. Institutions like *Sabhas* and *Samitis*, which find a reference in the *Rig Vedas*, provided a platform for debate and deliberations. At the village level, *Panchayats* have been the age-old fora, where village communities took collective decisions. It was thus logical that the Founding Fathers of our Constitution chose a democratic system of governance for free India. Since our Independence, our citizens have been exercising their

choices through the ballot box. Parliament, being the national legislative body, also bears the responsibility of setting standards for the State Legislatures, local bodies and, indeed all the elected bodies. How Parliament conducts itself is, what other elected bodies feel is, the right standard for them. It is incumbent on all parliamentarians to uphold the highest traditions of democracy and the highest standards of parliamentary functioning.

Once again, I would like to extend my hearty congratulations to Shri Sharad Pawarji, Shrimati Sushma Swarajji, Shri P. Chidambaramji and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyarji and wish them many more years of continued service in public life.

Thank You. *Jai Hind.*

3

THE 53RD COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE: AN OVERVIEW

The CPA, is an Association of Commonwealth Parliamentarians who, irrespective of gender, race, religion or culture, are united by community of interest, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of parliamentary democracy.

The Association aims to promote the advancement of parliamentary democracy by enhancing knowledge and understanding of democratic governance. It seeks to build an informed parliamentary community able to deepen the Commonwealth's democratic commitment and to further co-operation among its Parliaments and Legislatures. This cherished goal is sought to be met through Annual Conferences, Inter-parliamentary visits, Parliamentary Seminars and Workshops and various publications.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference provides a unique opportunity to the parliamentarians to discuss subjects of parliamentary interest as also exchange views on major political issues of topical and common concern. Plenary Conferences of the CPA were biennial from 1948 to 1959 but since 1961 they have been held annually. India has had the proud privilege of hosting this Conference in 1957, 1975 and 1991. This rare honour was bestowed once again on India when the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference was held in New Delhi from 21 to 30 September 2007.

Arrangements for the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference

The Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh was the Vice-Patron and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee was the President of the CPA. The India Branch and the State Branches of the CPA were the joint hosts to the Conference. The planning and organization of the Conference arrangements were taken up well in advance which finally led to the smooth conduct of the Conference. The Executive Committee of the India Branch of the CPA as also the Steering Committee for the Conference held several sessions to finalise

all arrangements for the Conference as per schedule. Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair, Secretary, Lok Sabha Secretariat was the Conference Coordinator.

The actual Conference activities began with the official arrival of Members of the Executive Committee on 21 September 2007 followed by the arrival of Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Steering Committee Members and the Small Countries' Conference Delegates on 22 September 2007. Delegates of the CWP Conference and Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference started arriving in batches and by 23-24 September 2007, all the Delegates had reached New Delhi. All the distinguished guests arrived to a warm welcome and were escorted to their Hotels by senior officers of the Conference Secretariat.

Executive Committee Meetings

The venue for the Conference was the Vigyan Bhavan Complex in New Delhi. The Executive Committee met on 22 September 2007 and deliberated on several important items on the agenda. The Executive Committee held meetings again on 23 and 24 September 2007. The New Executive Committee held its meeting on 28 September 2007.

Small Countries' Conference

The Commonwealth community has always been alive to the special needs and problems of the small member-countries. The CPA introduced the Small Countries' Conference in 1981 on the requests from the Branches in small countries for a forum to discuss their own special problems. This grouping comprises countries having a population of less than 400,000. The Conference is held annually, immediately preceding the Plenary Conference of the CPA.

The 27th Small Countries' Conference was inaugurated by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, in the Plenary Hall of the Vigyan Bhawan on 23 September 2007.

In his Inaugural Address, the Vice-President Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari said that many of the problems confronting the nations of the world today are neutral to geography and size. Issues such as food and water security; environmentally sustainable development; global pandemics such as bird flu and HIV/AIDS; transnational terrorism; natural disasters such as cyclones, earthquakes and tsunamis; energy security; and climate change are cross-boundary issues that need to be addressed

through regional and international cooperation. It was of paramount importance that small states have full say as equal members in addressing such pressing issues that vitally impact on them.

The Vice-President emphasized that the parliamentarians of small countries have a special responsibility to equip themselves with the knowledge base and skill sets relevant to their concerns. The impact of globalisation on small nations, transnational security threats in small states, including the themes of regulating immigration and tackling human trafficking and protecting the environment to ensure sustainable development, are important from the small countries' perspective.

Shri Ansari also referred to the several initiatives taken by India to extend assistance to the Commonwealth countries in addressing problems confronted by them.

Addressing the delegates, the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, said that small countries faced several unique concerns different from other countries. Many of them were economically vulnerable and their productive activities had a high sensitivity to global economic fluctuations. They also suffered from developmental hurdles such as remoteness, being land-locked or littoral, dependence on limited number of primary products for export and inadequate opportunities for mobilizing resources.

The Lok Sabha Speaker pointed out that the various processes of international trade should have sufficient space to accommodate their specific requirements and the international institutions, including institutions like the WTO, should pay attention to their peculiar economic problems. Some of the areas which require immediate attention are enhanced admittance to world markets, more favourable financing arrangements, rationalization of debt servicing, and preferential conditions for trade.

In his Address, the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, said that Commonwealth countries, notwithstanding their size, had been playing an important role within the community. The Small Countries' Conference, a forum supported by the CPA, helps the international community to understand the position of small countries in a better perspective and offers concrete advice to the CPA for dealing with their problems. Shri Halim enumerated several initiatives taken in respect of parliamentary developments in the small countries and appreciated the various areas like shipping, tourism, etc., where small countries have enhanced their capacities considerably. He, however, expressed concern that the fragile economies of the small countries can jeopardize their achievements, if not managed properly, especially in the context of globalization.

In his Address, the CPA Secretary-General, Dr. William F. Shija said that the issue of how well to manage the effects of globalization to the benefit of all countries and all people is a topic of economic interdependence that has been debated and researched in recent years. Globalization is a powerful force; if managed poorly, it can create poverty and widen inequality. Managed wisely, it can lift millions out of deprivation.

Addressing the august assembly, the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Government of India, Shri A. Raja, described the CPA as a well-knit organization representing multi-racial, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious diversities of the world. He also laid stress on the values of the Commonwealth such as commitment to the Rule of Law, fundamental freedoms, and democratic principles and ideals.

The Chairperson of the Small Countries' Conference, Ms. Anne Valerie Craine (Isle of Man), referred to India as an ancient civilization and a country of many cultures. She also fondly referred to the visit of her father as a Delegate to the CPA Conference hosted by India in New Delhi in 1957.

Proposing a Vote of Thanks, the Speaker of the Parliament of Gibraltar, Mr. H.K. Budhrani said that he was coming to India after a gap of 44 years and was overwhelmed by the warmth and gracious hospitality of India and its people.

At the Inaugural Function, the Vice-President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, also released a special Commemorative Stamp, brought out by the Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Government of India, to mark the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference.

Plenary Sessions of Small Countries' Conference

In the First Plenary Session of the Small Countries' Conference held after the inaugural function, the subject *'Parliamentary Initiatives of Managing the Effects of Globalization on Small Countries'* provoked an animated discussion among the delegates who participated in the deliberations chaired by Ms. Anne Valerie Craine (Isle of Man), the Chairperson of the Small Countries' Conference. The participants highlighted the impact of globalization with reference to small countries and also enumerated some of the positive aspects of globalization which can be availed by the small countries. They felt that given the specific requirements and problems of small countries, it was imperative

that development came from within, rather than being imported from outside. They also observed that the small countries should invest in human resources, particularly in the younger generation, to develop an educated work force. Those who participated in the discussion were: Mr. Frederick Azzopardi (Malta); Ms. Lisa Singh (Tasmania, Australia); Mr. Laurence Morgan (Guernsey); Mr. Loh Yoon Foo (Perlis, Malaysia); Mr. Christopher Donald Brock (Guernsey); Mr. Mario Galea (Malta); Mr. Joseph Mizzi (Malta); Ms. Elaine Elizabeth Taylor (Yukon, Canada); Mr. Daniel Robert Knight (Northern Territory, Australia); Dr. Roy Le Herissier (Jersey); Mr. Norman George (Cook Islands); and Mr. John Richard Cockwell (Falkland Islands).

The Second Plenary Session on the important subject, *'Collaborative vs. Adversarial Systems of Government in Small Countries'* was chaired by Mr. Clare Edward Staffen (Yukon, Canada). After brief introductory remarks from the Chair, Mr. Joseph Leon Handley (Northwest Territories, Canada) and Dr. Roy Le Herissier (Jersey) elaborated upon the systems prevalent in their respective jurisdictions. This was followed by an interactive session in which, among others, Ms. Claire Le Pelley (Guernsey); Mr. Norman George (Cook Islands); Mr. Mario Galea (Malta); Ms. Anne Valerie Craine (Isle of Man); and Ms. Katherine B. Smith (Bahamas) took part.

The 27th Conference of Small Countries of the CPA, concluded on 24 September 2007. In the Third Plenary in the forenoon, delegates deliberated on the subject *'Regulating Immigration and Human Trafficking.'* The concluding Plenary discussed the subject *'Protecting the Environment to Assure Sustainable Development.'*

Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference

The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Group was set up at the 35th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held in Barbados in 1989, as an informal forum for the meeting of women parliamentarians with the objectives of assisting women members and others in enhancing the representation of women in Parliaments throughout the Commonwealth; bringing into focus the barriers that exist in this regard in various Commonwealth countries; and considering ways to motivate women to a complete awareness of the role that they can play in the social, political and economic affairs of their countries. The CWP also aims at ensuring that matters of concern to women are brought to the notice of the CPA as well as individual Parliaments. The meeting of CWP Steering Committee, comprising Chairperson and one member from each region, are held in this direction. In 2004, the

group was formally recognized in the CPA Constitution and its elected Chairperson was added to the CPA Executive Committee.

The Lok Sabha Speaker and President of CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, inaugurated the First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) Conference at the Vigyan Bhawan on 24 September 2007.

In his Inaugural Address, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that though the condition of women varied from country to country, but practically everywhere, including in the developed countries, they are disadvantaged in some way or the other.

On the political plane, in many countries, women are under-represented in Legislative Bodies, in decision-making apparatus, in the governance structures, and even in the higher levels of political party leaderships. Economically, they continue to suffer from deprivation and iniquity, in spite of their contribution to economic growth and greater productivity. Their health care is another distressing area, with poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and exploitation of varied forms haunting them unendingly.

The Lok Sabha Speaker stressed that gender justice demands that the political, economic and social aspects of policy prescriptions should undergo a paradigm shift if genuine empowerment is to be secured.

Addressing the delegates, the Minister of State for Women and Child Development and President of the CWP, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury said that the Government of India has identified "fully empowering women politically, educationally, economically and legally" as one of its six basic principles of governance. Among other measures for empowerment of women, she mentioned equal right to daughters in ancestral property; the Rural Employment Guarantee Programme; provisions for women like joint ownership for home and agricultural land; and a significant role for women in both access to and management of water resources.

Speaking at the function, the Chairperson of the CWP, Ms. Lindiwe Maseko, said that the CWP has been able to contribute to gender mainstreaming efforts within the CPA itself and towards this end we have contributed towards the CPA Strategic Plans being gender-inclusive and gender sensitive. Ms. Maseko reiterated that the aims and objectives of the CWP should be to: increase the number of women attending CPA events, especially the Annual Conference, with monitoring and publication of results; encourage branches to nominate women to positions on CPA governing bodies; provide a suitable

framework and sufficient time for meetings of the CWP and its Steering Committee; ensure that a gender component is included in every relevant CPA activity, including the Annual Conference; coordinate the Association's efforts with those of other organizations working in this field targeting Commonwealth countries where a critical mass of women in Parliament has yet to be achieved; and raise the profile of the CWP and the work of its members through wider CPA communication channels.

In his Address, the CPA Secretary-General, Dr. William F. Shija, said that in many parts of the Commonwealth, women still face significant discrimination and exclusion—a situation that should no longer be tolerated. Many jurisdictions have policies in place to ensure that gender is recognised as a component of policy development—in health, education and political representation. The challenge remains, however, in implementation. In any case, this challenge is not just for women but for men as well, and together we have to form a partnership.

The First Session of the CWP deliberated on the subject, *'Strategies to Overcome Barriers Preventing Women's Equal Participation in Decision Making,'* chaired by Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, the President of CWP and Minister of State for Women and Child Development. In her Keynote Address, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury said that equal participation of women and men in decision-making is a necessary condition for the achievement of sustainable development and peace. When women and men are relatively equal, economies tend to grow faster, the poor move more quickly out of poverty, and the well-being of men, women and children is enhanced.

Those who took part in the discussion were: Ms. Koti Nyama (Limpopo Province, South Africa); Dr. Rozaidah Talib (Malaysia); Ms. Elsie Onobdgu (CPA Secretariat); Ms. Dasien Fenton (New Zealand); Ms. Margareth Mensah Williams (Namibia); and other delegates. The discussion in the Plenary was preceded by a short film presentation depicting the challenges faced by rural and urban women in India and how they are coping with them.

This was followed by an interactive session in which a number of delegates participated. Subsequently, the UNDP made a representation on *iKNOWpolitics* which offers a global platform where women politicians can reach beyond partisanship and borders to share experiences, offer support and enhance their capacity to lead.

The Second Session on *'The Role of Women Parliamentarians In Fighting HIV/AIDS and Poverty'* was chaired by Ms. Lindiwe Maseko,

Chairperson of the CWP. Leading the discussion, Ms. Tessa Mangal (Saint Lucia) said that women parliamentarians have to become integrally involved in analyzing the problems and proposing solutions.

Dr. Eleni Theocharous (Cyprus) observed that empowering women against two interlinked epidemics, AIDS and poverty, means the very least, providing them with access to education, economic opportunities, resources and decision-making authority, comprehensive health information and services.

Among others who participated in the interactive session were: Ms. Njoki Ndungu (Kenya); Ms. S. Kalyan (South Africa); Smt. Mohsina Kidwai (India); Ms. Razima Alam Khan (Pakistan); Ms. Anne Semamba Makinda (Tanzania); Ms. Amongi Beatrice Lagada (Uganda); Ms. Tina Faal (The Gambia); Ms. Ativie Elizabeth (Nigeria); and Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha (India).

New Chairperson of CWP: The Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians Conference elected Ms. Kashmala Tariq (Pakistan) as the new Chairperson of the CWP.

53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference Inaugurated: On 25 September 2007, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, inaugurated the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan. The President released a Commemorative Souvenir brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to mark the Conference.

The main theme of the 53rd Conference was *"Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development"*, the varied dimensions of which were dealt with in six Workshops.

Opening the Plenary Conference, the President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil said that India has unwavering faith in democratic governance as the best way to ensure sustainable development and to promote the advancement of human rights, and especially the rights of women, in an interconnected world. She said Commonwealth Parliamentarians working together can send a powerful message to the world to resolve issues collectively.

Addressing the Conference, the Vice-President, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari pointed out that new global world order has to be built on the tenets of equity, harmony, tolerance, diversity and pluralism. Parliamentary institutions all over the world are under pressure to meet the challenges of sustainable development, inclusive growth and good governance. The answer lies in seeking to strengthen, and deepen,

the norms of participation and of accountability. This would necessitate an enabling social, economic, political and legal environment that would induce every section of the society to participate in greater measure in the processes of governance and development. This, in turn, would demand that democracy be imbued with a spirit of openness, accountability and transparency, with wider inclusiveness, devolution and decentralization of power.

In his Message to the Conference, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, said that given the unique composition of our membership—spanning continents, bridging the North-South divide and including all races and religions—we in the Commonwealth have the opportunity of creatively addressing the great challenges facing humankind today. The most important of these challenges is that of poverty, and the social, economic, political and ecological consequences of poverty. The Commonwealth is a storehouse of experience and knowledge and we must put these to good use to banish mass poverty in our lifetime. There are other issues of global concern such as terrorism, the threat of climate change and the preservation of our environment that need our urgent attention.

Earlier, welcoming the delegates, the Lok Sabha Speaker and President of CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, expressed his gratification that the Commonwealth parliamentary fraternity chose New Delhi as the venue for the 53rd Conference, after a gap of sixteen years. Shri Somnath Chatterjee pointed out that today there is a growing realization that there is no better alternative to democracy for promoting good governance and for emancipating and empowering people. The primacy of Parliament as the ultimate embodiment of people's will as also its efficacy in ensuring accountability to the people at all times have also been reiterated in no uncertain terms. Lack of comprehensive development is a major issue, posing a grave threat to many democratic countries, including many in the Commonwealth. As the elected representatives of a third of the world's population, the parliamentarians of the Commonwealth must put their resources and experiences together to consider and suggest the methods to bring about further development that will sustain and take care of every segment of society. He also observed that today, democracy goes beyond its traditional moorings to evolve and adapt to the needs of the time, and the specific requirements of nations, big and small. The benchmarks of yesterday may need to be revised in context, and new goals and targets set, to make democracy more relevant to the people.

In his thanks-giving address, Mr. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Di Raja Ramli

Ngah Talib, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia and the Vice-President of the CPA, emphasised the role and relevance of the Commonwealth in the contemporary world and said that Information and Communication Technology will go a long way in realizing the laudable goals of the CPA.

Address by the Secretary-General, Commonwealth: Addressing the delegates and others in the Vigyan Bhawan on 25 September 2007 afternoon, the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Mr. Don McKinnon, said that the overthrow of a constitutionally elected government leads inevitably to a country being suspended from the organization. But even if that happens, we never turn our backs: our aim is always to help it to repair the damage and return to the fold. This, then, is our 'belief system'.

The Commonwealth Secretary-General also enumerated several building blocks to Commonwealth democracy in practice: Parliaments that are properly inclusive of the half of humankind that is women, as well as ethnic and religious minorities; a lively civil society; an independent and responsible media; an effective and truly impartial Judiciary; and a voice for young people. He added that democracy is about far more than democratic elections. A vote has to be a thing worth having. It has to bring dividends, in the form of government which benefits normal people, in the form of efficient, transparent, fair, accountable institutions that administer service, and–ultimately–in the form of a better life, and peace and prosperity for all.

Earlier, the Secretary-General of the CPA, Dr. William F. Shija also addressed the gathering enumerating the varied activities of the CPA and the challenges before the Commonwealth parliamentary community. Dr. Shija observed that all over the world today, nations are confronted with the same challenges. The fundamental question is how can we achieve economic development and reduce poverty without endangering the long-term prospects of our planet. This debate is too important for parliamentarians to be sidelined; hence, the 53rd Conference programme has been tailored to suit the demand from the members to know more about these issues and to make the voices heard here and abroad.

Dr. Shija also sought to highlight the importance of the CPA regions building up their activities. He said that in recent years, there have been more CPA initiatives at the regional level and the Regional Secretariats have increased their role. This is something that we must encourage and support greatly. Regions must also consider developing their own

strategic plans to guide their development, in line with the new Strategic Plan of the CPA.

Plenary Sessions

The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference took up for discussion several key issues in the Workshops on 26 September 2007. The Workshop A was held on the subject, *'Climate Change and Global Warming: Policy Issues and Solutions.'* Ms. Liz Beattie (Australia) was the Moderator. Initiating the discussion, Mr. Hugh Bayley (UK) emphasized that the people and Civil Society Groups can play a more proactive role in creating awareness among all the stakeholders about environment protection. Mr. M.J. Mahlangu (South Africa) said that parliamentarians can play an important role in pushing up the issues of adaptation, capacity building and technology transfer, besides impressing upon their national governments to abide by their international commitments. Stating that the big countries across the world have failed to fulfil their commitments, Mr. Norman George (Cook Islands) stressed the need for exchange of information on atmospheric variations and the availability of environment friendly clean technologies. The Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal (India) said that despite the fact that India's contribution to greenhouse gas emissions is very small, the Government of India has taken several pro-active measures to improve the situation. More importantly, it has one of the most active renewable energy programmes, besides having a dedicated Ministry for Non-Conventional Energy Sources in the world. Others participants included: Shri Harbans Kapoor (Uttarakhand, India); Mr. F.L. Tolofuaivalelei (Samoa); Prof. Z.A. Matsela (Lesotho); Mr. Ahmed Zahir (Maldives); Mr. Greg Hands (UK); Mr. Christopher Donald Brock (Guernsey); Mr. Robenson Benn (Guyana); Mr. Pono Pearson Moathodi (Botswana); Mr. Fredrick Azzopardi (Maldives); Mr. Ibrahim Isa Bio (Nigeria); Mr. Idris Haron (Malaysia); Mr. Appala Naidu (Malaysia); Prof. L.G.B. Ndabandaba (South Africa); Shri R. Avudaiappan (Tamil Nadu, India); Ms. Beatrice Lagada (Uganda); Mr. Nigel Evans (UK); Mr. S.K. Devamany (Malaysia); Shri Kharabela Swain (India); Dr. Fatimah Bte Abdul Lateef (Singapore); Dr. Tshenuwani S. Farasani (South Africa); Shri Maheshwar Mohanty (Orissa, India); Shri Ram Narayan Bishnoi (Rajasthan, India); Ms. Anne Semamba Makinda (Tanzania); Shri Alamgir Alam (Jharkhand, India); and Mr. William George Stefaniak (Australia).

In Workshop 'B', the delegates took up for discussion the theme, *'Global Water and Energy Use: Towards Sustainable Development.'*

Mr. Antonio Hama Thay (Mozambique), who was the Moderator at the Workshop, said that water deficiency around the world is rapidly becoming a major cause of concern. The Workshop started with a short presentation on *Water is Life.* Initiating the discussion, Mr. Harry Jenkins (Australia) gave a presentation wherein he stressed the fact that global warming is now real and unavoidable and, therefore, parliamentarians should be committed to play a role in promoting sustainability. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan, said that the availability of water and energy services significantly influences the quality of life and health of the people and the development potential of nations. Water crisis is undoubtedly caused due to improper planning and poor management and requires an inter-sectoral and multidisciplinary approach in managing the water resources so as to maximize economic and social welfare in an equitable manner without compromising on the sustainability of vital eco-systems. The Delegates were of the view that there were two big challenges facing all the countries–the need to ensure access to secure and affordable energy supplies and second, working, with other countries, to enhance environmental protection. Both these issues were vital for the world's future prosperity. Others who participated in the discussion were: Dr. Ashok Kumar (United Kingdom); Mr. Mohammad Azam Khan Swati (Pakistan); Dr. Raman Senthil (India); Shri C.K. Chandrappan (India); Ms. Louise Anne Jackson (Bermuda); Ms. Pemmy Majodina (South Africa); Ms. Doreen Sioka (Namibia); Lord Navnit Dholakia (U.K.); Mr. Terry Waldron (Australia); Mr. David P. Smith (Canada); Dr. Terepai Maoate (Cook Islands); Ms. Sue Barnes (Canada); Smt. C.S. Sujatha (India); Ms. Betty Williams (United Kingdom); Mr. Dong Woolerton (New Zealand); Mr. Dominic Motikoe (Lesotho); Ms. Susan Lyimo (Tanzania); Dato Sri Haji Mohamad Asfia (Malaysia); Ms. Caroline Schaefar (South Australia); and Mr. Anderson Steppe (Malawi). There was unanimity of views among the delegates on finding solution to the problems, which lies in proper water management and exploring renewable energy sources.

Mr. Philip Zuniga (Belize) was the Moderator at the Workshop 'C' on *'Balancing Economic Development and Environmental Protection,'* which also witnessed lively deliberations. Initiating the discussion, Dr. A. Raynell Andreychuk (Canada), drawing from her varied experience, said that there has been a lot of talk but less of action with regard to environmental protection. Development is something more than Gross Domestic Product (GDP); we must all work towards 'green growth'. The delegates observed that there should be integrated and holistic development where environmental concerns should be a major part of

the planning process. Among others who intervened / participated in the discussion were: Mr. Anantha Kumar Duraiappah (UNEP); Dr. Narraesah Mohamed (Malaysia); Dr. Vasantt Jogoo, (Commonwealth Secretariat); Lord Swraj Paul (UK); Shri S.S. Ahluwalia (India); Dr. Lily Neo (Singapore); Shri Ramanathan Radhakrishnan (Puducherry, India); Shri B.J. Panda (India); Mr. Kah Choon Lee (Malaysia); Shri K. Radhakrishnan (Kerala, India); Mr. Ike Ekweremadu (Nigeria); Mr. Fittis Sophocles (Cyprus); Mr. Z.L. Madasa (South Africa); Ms. Indranie Chandarpal (Guyana); Shri G.R. Musaffir (Himachal Pradesh, India); Prof. Mangalbhai Patel (Gujarat, India); Mr. Peter Bottomley (U.K.); Mr. Floyd E. Seymour (Turks and Caicos Islands); Mr. Picewell A.L. Forbes (The Bahamas); Shri Setong Sena (Arunachal Pradesh, India); Shri Pratapsing Rane (Goa, India); Smt. Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (India); and Mr. Ike Chimoo (Nigeria).

On 27 September 2007, the remaining three Workshops deliberated on specified issues. In the Workshop 'D' on *'Parliamentary Practice and Procedure: Need for Reforms to Secure Greater Executive Accountability,'* Mr. Edward K. Ssekandi (Uganda) acted as the Moderator. Opening the discussion, Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy (Andhra Pradesh, India) said that though several effective devices are put into practice to secure the accountability of the Executive to Legislatures, the legislative bodies in general are not able to secure the accountability of the Executive to the desired level. Shri Reddy emphasized the need of providing good support staff to the Legislators. He also highlighted the need to take full advantage of the expert support extended by the UNDP, besides constituting new Standing Committees and legislators' fora to examine the activities of the Government on issues like environmental protection, water, youth and HIV/AIDS. Dwelling upon the need for addressing the problem of trust-deficit being faced across the world, Mr. Scott Hubli (Democratic Governance Group, UNDP) felt that Parliaments should work more seriously to justify the trust reposed in them by the people. He also called upon parliamentarians to refer to standard benchmarks, recommended by the CPA Study Group and other international bodies, to reflect the grievances and aspirations of people in the business transacted in the Legislative Chambers. Referring to various initiatives taken by the new Government in Canada after the year 2006, Mr. Russ Hiebert (Canada) said that a number of new legislations have been put in place to create a new culture of accountability and transparency both in the Government and outside it. Among others who took part in the interactive session were: Shri G.R. Mussafir (Himachal Pradesh, India); Mr. Michael M. Mabenga (Zambia); Ms. Gifty Eugenia Kusi (Ghana); Ms. Gladys Kokorwe (Botswana); Shri K. Radhakrishnan (Kerala, India);

Ms. Sybil Seaton (South Africa); Mr. Jackson Mthembu (South Africa); Ms. Indranie Chandarpal (Guyana); Mr. Peter Bottomley (UK); Smt. Sumitra Singh (Rajasthan, India); Shri Prem Prakash Pandey (Chhattisgarh, India); Ms. Rosemary Butler (UK); Ms. Razina Alam Khan (Pakistan); Ms. Sarah Patience Mpabwa (Uganda); Ms. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko (South Africa); Shri Harbans Kapoor (Uttarakhand, India); Mr. Ibrahim Isa Biu (Nigeria); Ms. Susan Lyima (Tanzania); and Ms. Kashmala Tariq (Pakistan).

In Workshop 'E', the delegates took up for discussion the theme '*The Role, Rights and Responsibilities of the Opposition.*' Mr. Mahindra Yapa Abeywardena (Sri Lanka) was the Moderator at this Workshop. Initiating the discussion, Mr. Alban Bagbin (Ghana) said that the Opposition has certain rights as well–the right to information and the right to have access to the people to enable healthy criticism, with equal responsibility to protect the rule of law, peace and democracy. Mr. Alan Ferguson (Australia) said the Opposition, being the Government in waiting, has various constructive roles to play like articulating grievances of the people, consistently compelling the Government to improve upon its own policies and if need be, to promote alternative policies other than those of the Government. In his presentation, Mr. Phenton Nemeour (The Bahamas) said that being the public watchdog over the activities of the Government, the Opposition facilitates the smooth functioning of the democratic system as a whole. An effective and knowledgeable Opposition can build a mature political culture by ensuring that the minority is given fair chance to be heard.

Others who participated in the Workshop were: Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan (Pakistan); Dr. K. Chakrapani (Andhra Pradesh, India); Mr. Shaun Byhevelot (South Africa); Ms. Khadija Ibrahim (Nigeria); Shri S.S. Ahluwalia (India); Mr. Mwansa Kapeya (Zambia); Dr. Eleni Theocharous (Cyprus); Ms. Sue Barnes (Canada); Mr. Bimal Niroshan Rathnayake (Sri Lanka); Mr. Fong Kui Lun (Malaysia); Lord Navnit Dholakia (United Kingdom); Shri Alamgir Alam (Jharkhand, India); Mr. Zwelethu Madasa (South Africa); Shri C.K. Chandrappan (India); Mr. Okupa Elijah (Uganda); Ms. Hitma Nicanor (Namibia); Ms. Akua Sena Dansua (Ghana); Mr. Picewell A. Forbes (The Bahamas); Mr. Loh Seng Kok (Malaysia); Thiru Ramiah Thevar Avudaiappan (Tamil Nadu, India); Ms. Amna Ally (Guyana); Shri Prahlad Dora (Orissa, India); Mr. Anderson Steppe (Malawi); Smt. C.S. Sujatha (India); Datak Dr. Yusof Yacob (Malaysia); and Shri Takar Marde (Arunachal Pradesh, India).

In Workshop 'F' on *'Strengthening Financial Scrutiny,'* Mr. Hawazi Daipi (Singapore) functioned as the Moderator for the Session. Initiating

the discussion, Mr. Les Kojima (World Bank) threw light on financial scrutiny exercised by the World Bank from the perspective of the donor. Mr. David McGee (New Zealand) spoke of the pre-budget role of the legislators with regard to the contents of the budget and emphasized on performance measures. Mr. Jamie Stone (Scotland), highlighting budgetary scrutiny in a coalition, minority and majority government and how they are linked with policy formulated by the government, said that scrutiny of budget varies accordingly. Mr. Hawazi Daipi (Singapore) highlighted the role of various Financial Committees, particularly in the scrutiny of budget and the role of the Public Accounts Committee which he described as a watchdog. The presentations by the panelists were followed by a very lively interactive session touching upon the whole gamut of issues having a bearing on budgetary scrutiny, financial accountability and the role of legislators and Legislatures in the matter. Others who participated/intervened in the discussion were: Mr. Lee Kah Choon (Malaysia); Dr. Eastlyn McKenzie (Trinidad and Tobago); Shri M.A. Kharabela Swain (India); Ms. Clare Margaret Christian (Isle of Man); Ms. Sylvia Lucas (South Africa); Ms. Betty Williams (UK); Mr. R.M. Robertson (St. Helena); Lord Lyndon Harrison (UK); Mr. Peter Kenneth (Kenya); Mr. Jurie Viljoen (Namibia); Mr. Christopher Donald Brock (Guernsey); Ms. Luiza Nora (World Bank); Mr. Rauff Hakeem (Sri Lanka); Mr. Mackenzie Frank (Antigua & Barbados); Mr. Mohammad Asghar (Wales, UK); Smt. Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (India); Mr. Boy Johannes Nobunga (South Africa); Ms. Melanie Chia Chui Ket (Malaysia); Ms. Judy Wasylycia-Leis (Canada); Mr. Joseph Handley (Canada); Mr. Dong Woolerion (New Zealand); and Mr. Frederick Azzopardi (Malta). In his summing-up observations, Mr. Hawazi Daipi (Singapore) said that there seemed to be agreement that there is no single model for financial scrutiny. He urged the CPA to facilitate exchange of information and emphasized on training and capacity building.

Gender Related Plenary: In the afternoon session on the same day the delegates took up the theme *'The Role of Parliamentarians in Raising Awareness of and Curbing Human Trafficking'* in the Gender Related Plenary chaired by Ms. Lindiwe Michelle Maseko. Initiating the discussion, Ms. Constance Simelane, MP and Deputy Prime Minister of Swaziland, said that human trafficking, among other things, is an infringement of the basic human rights and self-determination and that the push factors behind human trafficking are poverty, lack of education and other social evils. Appealing to the parliamentarians to make constant endeavours, she proposed the networking of the Legislatures in this regard and underscored the need for a concerted approach and appropriate intervention strategies by parliamentarians. Ms. Kate Hoey, MP, (UK)

cited instances of sexual exploitation, organ trade, bonded labour, domestic labour, etc. Mr. Gary Lewis, Representative, Regional Office for South Asia, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in his presentation, narrated the harrowing and horrendous experience of child abuse and exploitation very poignantly. He appealed to the parliamentarians to be proactive in matters relating to prosecution and prevention of occurrence of such crimes. He also urged that UN Protocols in these matters should be adopted and domestic laws should be framed to combat such crimes. Stressing the necessity of inter-agency and international cooperation on this issue, Ms. Maja Daruwala, Director, Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative said that democracy demands a democratic police force to investigate such cases. Among others who participated in the discussion were: Smt. Mohsina Kidwai (India); Shri S.S. Ahluwalia (India); Mr. Michael M. Mabenga (Zambia); Mr. Shaun Byneveldt (Western Cape, South Africa); Shri Uday Narain Chaudhary (Bihar, India); Ms. Jean M. Sendeza (Malawi); Ms. Thandi Modise (North West, South Africa); Ms. Beatrice Lagada (Uganda); Mr. Pono P.P. Moatlhodi (Botswana); Shri Tara Chand (Jammu & Kashmir, India); Ms. Indranie Chandarpal (Guyana); Mr. Ike Climwo (Nigeria); Ms. Komala Devi (Malaysia); Ms. Dora Siliya (Zambia); Smt. C.S. Sujatha (India); Mr. James Reed (Jersey); Ms. Melani Chia Chui Ket (Malaysia); Smt. Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (India); Mr. Elijah Okupa (Uganda); Ms. Kashmala Tariq (Pakistan); Ms. Ntlhoi Motsamai (Lesotho); Mr. John Bernard Hayes (New Zealand); Ms. Patricia Davidson (Canada); Ms. Njoki Ndungu (Kenya); and Ms. Gifty Eugenia Kusi (Ghana).

On 28 September 2007, the Lok Sabha Speaker and President of CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, presided over the Host Branch Plenary on *'Right To Recall as a Strategy for Enforcing Greater Accountability of Parliaments to the People.'* In his opening remarks, Shri Chatterjee said that the people's 'right to recall' mid-term an elected representative who fails to live up to the expectations of his constituents, assumes significance as a potent democratic tool. The 'recall' device has also the potential to encourage the citizens to keep themselves abreast of contemporary public issues in order to monitor the conduct of their elected representatives. In his address, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, said that the right to recall is fraught with problems such as its misuse and it involves financial expenditure. Shri Era Sezhiyan, former Member of Parliament, who was one of the Discussion Leaders, cautioned the growing aversion of the people to politics in general and politicians in particular and said that if remedial measures were not taken to make the elected representatives more accountable to the people, the time may soon come for the people to throw away, lock

stock and barrel, the entire system of parliamentary democracy. Among others who participated in the discussion were: Shri T.R. Andhyarujina, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India, and a former Solicitor General of India; Shri Sitaram Yechury, MP, India; Mr. Muhammad Azam Khan (Pakistan); Mr. Anderson Steppe (Malawi); Dr. Yusof Yacob (Malaysia); Mr. Pono P.P. Moatlhodi (Botswana); Mr. Hugh Nigel Edward Bayley (UK); Mr. Rajkeswar Purryag (Mauritius); Mr. Sunday Eseme Eyibdh (Nigeria); Mr. David P. Smith (Canada); Smt. Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (India); Dr. Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (Malaysia); and Smt. C.S. Sujatha (India).

The Final Plenary on *'Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures'* was presided over by Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Chairman, CPA Executive Committee. Initiating the discussion, Mr. Ahmed Ali (Pakistan) said that benchmarks for democratic Legislatures would help Legislatures to become open, independent, responsible and accountable. Referring to the benchmarks for democratic legislatures developed by the CPA, Mr. K. Scott Hubli (UNDP) outlined five ways that the CPA could consider to take the discussion forward–additional further validation and regional reviews; reviewing the benchmarks from the perspective of small countries; exploring underdeveloped issues; engaging in dialogue with other organizations; and use of the benchmarks as a framework for continuous gathering and updating of information about best practices in Parliament. Participating in the discussion, Ms. Anne S. Makinda (Tanzania) said that although parliamentary practices differ from country to country, there are certain benchmarks such as regular and periodic elections and certain common immunities enjoyed by members like freedom of speech and freedom of opinion. Mr. John Johnson, Director of Governance, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, in his presentation, referred to documents prepared by the CPA and India on benchmarks which have many things in common. Those who participated in the interactive discussion were: Dr. Rasheed Draman, Director, Africa Programmes, Parliamentary Centre, Ghana; Mr. Mackenzie Morris Frank (Antigua and Barbuda); Shri Suresh Kurup (India); Mr. Lee Kah Choon (Malaysia); Shri S.S. Ahluwalia (India); Mr. Michael M. Mabenga (Zambia); Mr. Terry Waldron (Australia); Smt. Jhansi Botcha Lakshmi (India); Dr. Eastiyn Mckenzie (Trinidad & Tobago); and Ms. Suzan Anselm Jerime Lyimo (Tanzania). Concluding the Session, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Chairman, CPA Executive Committee, among other things, said that political parties should select suitable candidates and there should be independence of Legislative Bodies.

Meetings of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table

The Society of the Clerks-at-the Table held three meetings during

the Conference. In the First Meeting held on 26 September 2007, Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, who chaired the Session, made a presentation on parliamentary developments and topical issues in India. Subsequently, presentations were also made by representatives from various regions.

The Society of Clerks-at-the-Table continued their deliberations on 27 September 2007. Shri N.C. Joshi, the then Acting Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, who chaired the Session, presented a Paper on the *'Recent Problems'* faced by the Chair in the Council of States. He elaborated on how issues relating to *'Zero Hour'* and *'Laying of Speeches on the Table of the House'* have been resolved by the Chair.

In the morning Session, four presentations were made. In his presentation on *'Freedom of Speech and Citizens' Right of Reply'*, Mr. Russell Grove, Clerk of the New South Wales Legislative Assembly, discussed the experience of balancing parliamentary privilege with the citizens' right of reply in the various Legislatures in Australia. Mr. George Macminn, Clerk of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly, delineated important points for briefing a Speaker, especially one who is new to the post, in his paper *'50 Years at the Table: The Art of Briefing a Speaker'*. The presentation on *'Information Management'* made by Mr. Paul Grice, Chief Executive of the Scottish Parliament, dealt with the various steps and measures the Scottish Parliament has taken in building information infrastructure and instituting mechanisms and practices for efficient information management. In his paper *'Corporate Governance in Parliamentary Settings'*, Mr. Paul Belisie, Clerk of the Senate, Canada, talked about various principles and practices recommended for ensuring efficient administration of Parliament.

In the post-lunch Session, chaired by Shri N.C. Joshi, four other presentations were made. Mr. Richard Selth, Director, Table Office of the House of Representatives, Australia, presented a paper on *'Managing Bills in the Australian Parliament'* and Mr. Matome Mawasha (Northern Cape) on the subject *'Public Participation: A South African Case Study'*. Adv. Lulu Matyolo-Dube (National Council of the Provinces, South Africa) made a presentation on *'Financing Legislatures'*, which talked about ways to secure financial autonomy of the Legislature from Executive control. Shri N.C. Joshi (Acting Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, India) in his presentation on *'Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)'* spoke on the functioning of the MPLADS and the mechanisms adopted for monitoring the Scheme. In this context, he also discussed the role of the Committee on MPLADS in monitoring the Scheme as well as its other exemplary role beyond its normal

activities such as rehabilitation projects undertaken in cyclone-hit, earthquake and tsunami-affected areas.

The third Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table, held on 28 September 2007, began with a briefing from the CPA Secretary-General, Dr. William F. Shija. Lauding the Society for being a communication link between the CPA and member Parliaments, he said that they play an important role in keeping the records and preserving them for posterity. Later, the Meeting took up the debate on specific topics. The Secretary-General of Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, made a presentation on the *'Relationship between the Legislature Secretariat and the Executive'*. Subsequently, Ms. Anne Harris, Deputy Greffier of the States of Jersey, made a presentation on *'Providing Counselling and Support for Elected Members'*. Ms. Brook Prater of the World Bank Institute Professional Development Programme for Parliamentary Staff did a briefing and on-line demonstration of their module (course). Thereafter, the Lok Sabha Secretary-General, Shri P.D.T. Achary spoke on the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training wherein he listed out the varied activities of the Bureau.

Concluding Ceremony

The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, which was inaugurated by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, on 25 September 2007, concluded on 28 September 2007. The Valedictory Function was chaired by the Speaker of Lok Sabha and the outgoing President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

In his Valedictory Address, Shri Somnath Chatterjee said that there was a consensus on many issues deliberated in the Conference and that it was highly educative to benefit from one another's experiences. He thanked the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, for having inaugurated the Conference and the Vice-President of India and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, for inaugurating the Small Countries' Conference. He expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, for his inspiring Message and also to his colleagues in the Council of Ministers, for extending all support and cooperation in the successful organization of the Conference. He also thanked the Patron of the CPA, HM the Queen, for her Message for the success of the Conference.

Shri Somnath Chatterjee expressed his gratitude to the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; members of the Steering Committee of the Conference

and the India Region Branches for their cooperation at every stage in organizing the Conference. He also thanked the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, Mr. Don McKinnon for addressing the Conference; the Secretary-General of the CPA, Dr. William F, Shija, his colleagues, and the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary, the officers of the Secretariat, for their hard work in making the Conference a success. Besides, he thanked the Acting Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha, Shri N.C. Joshi and his colleagues for their support and cooperation.

The Speaker also congratulated his Malaysian counterpart, Mr. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Di Raja Ramli Ngah Talib, on his election as the new President of the CPA.

Earlier, in his address, Mr. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Di Raja Ramli Ngah Talib, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Malaysia, who is the new President of the CPA, described the Conference as a stellar gathering of parliamentarians which will go a long way in broadening the functioning of parliamentary democracy as this system has to evolve with the needs of the time.

In his thanks-giving address, Lord Swraj Paul (UK) said that the discussions in the Plenaries and Workshops of the Conference had been free and open and complimented the President of the Conference and the Speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee for the gracious hospitality and generosity extended to the delegates.

A notable highlight of the Valedictory Function was the felicitation of Mr. George MacMinn, the Clerk of the House, Legislative Assembly of British Colombia (Canada), for his long and sustained service at the Table spanning over 50 years, which was greeted with a standing ovation.

Special Features of the Conference

Post Conference Tour: The host Branch of the Conference had made extensive arrangements to ensure that the distinguished guests were taken to places of tourist attraction and historical importance. On 29 September 2007, they were taken to the historic city of Agra by a Commonwealth Parliamentary Special Rail where they were captivated by the aesthetic excellence and architectural marvel of the *Taj Mahal* and the *Fatehpur Sikri*.

Programmes for Spouses: Special programmes were arranged for the spouses, while the Delegates kept themselves busy in the Conference Sessions. They were taken to places of historical importance in and around Delhi and also to various emporia where they could do shopping. Some of the places they visited included: Parliament Museum, Parliament

Library Building, Craft Museum, near *Pragati Maidan*, Humayun' Tomb, *Jantar Mantar*, National Museum, Nehru Memorial, *Gandhi Smiriti*, Lotus Temple, *Akshardhaam* Temple, Cottage Emporium, *Qutab Minar*, Garden of Five Senses, and *Dilli Haat*.

Receptions: The delegates and others were guests of honour at several receptions. The President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil hosted a reception in honour of all the Delegates, Observers and their spouses at the *Rashtrapati Bhavan* on 25 September 2007. They were also guests of honour at receptions / lunches / banquets / dinners hosted by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, the Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the CPA Shri Hashim Abdul Halim, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the CPA, and the Speaker, West Bengal Legislative Assembly; Smt. Renuka Chowdhury, President of the CWP and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Women and Child Development; Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition, Lok Sabha; Shri Shivraj V. Patil, Minister of Home Affairs; Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information and Broadcasting; Shri A. Raja, Minister for Communications and Information Technology; Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal, Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha; Shri K. Rahman Khan, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha; Dr. William Shija, Secretary-General, CPA; and Shri P.D.T. Achary, Secretary General, Lok Sabha for Clerks / Secretaries / Secretaries-General and Secretaries to the Delegations and their spouses. Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Speaker, Lok Sabha also hosted a Farewell Dinner in honour of the visiting dignitaries.

Cultural Programmes

Several cultural programme were organized to the Delegates' delight. On 22 September 2007, Smt. Uma Sharma, renowned classical dancer presented a Kathak recital at Hotel Ashok. There was a Ballet on *Prakriti* (Nature) by Ms. Mamata Shankar, an accomplished dancer, choreographer and actress at the Convention Hall of Hotel Ashok on 24 September 2007. The next day, at the same venue, Shri Bickram Ghosh, renowned percussionist, classical musician and composer, presented a cultural programme *Rhythmscape*. Three classical dance forms with the theme 'Creation' were performed by Guru Jayarama Rao, Vana Shree Rao, Geeta Chandran and Bharati Shivaji on 26 September 2007. Pt. Shiv Kumar Sharma, a world renowned musician and composer enthralled the audiences with his *Santoor* recital on 27 September 2007. Delegates were also presented a fleeting view of India through the

medium of various forms of dances. *Raas Rang,* a multi-regional cultural programme, displaying seventeen different dance forms and styles of India together on a single platform, presenting a fusion of music and dance, was held on 28 September 2007.

Media Coverage

The Conference and the various functions associated with it were given extensive coverage, both by the electronic and the print media. A new initiative as part of the drive to improve and increase communications within the Association was the production of televised documentary of the Conference proceedings. The Conference and its related meetings were televised on the satellite channel of the Lok Sabha, India's Lower House. Satellite broadcasting in India started from the 27th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference of Members from Small Countries on 23 September till the conclusion of plenary Conference discussions on 28 September. A special video documentary of the meeting was also produced for broadcasting on the Internet and for distribution to Parliaments, Legislatures and television networks around the Commonwealth. The print media also gave wide coverage of the main functions as well as the daily proceedings. The host Branch Secretariat issued daily Press Releases on the various activities of the Conference, including the proceedings of the Plenary Sessions.

Exhibition on *Democracy and Sustainable Development:* On 24 September 2007, the Lok Sabha Speaker and President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, inaugurated an Exhibition titled *'Democracy and Sustainable Development'* in the Pre-Function Area (First Floor) at the Vigyan Bhawan. The Exhibition, put up by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat along with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity, covered three themes: *'Parliamentary Democracy in India;' 'Sustainable Development';* and *'Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.'*

Special Publications / Souvenirs

The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil released an impressive publication, *53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: A Commemorative Souvenir* at the inauguration of the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference on 25 September 2007. Compiled by the Research and Information Division of the Lok Sabha Secretariat to mark the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, it carries messages from Heads of State / Government of many Commonwealth countries, including the Patron of the Commonwealth,

Her Majesty the Queen the President of India Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, the Vice-President of India, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari and the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh. The Volume contains over 58 articles from Presiding Officers and Clerks of Commonwealth Countries and members of Indian Parliament.

Besides the Commemorative Souvenir, the Host Branch Secretariat also brought out several other publications. The *Profiles Handbook*, and a supplement thereof, containing bio-data of Delegates and other guests prepared from the information made available by them, was found to be immensely useful and informative. The List of Delegates to the Conference, the Conference Handbook and Diary of Events were all of utmost informative value. The work on the briefs, backgrounders and other research material on the Agenda items of the Conference was also undertaken by the Host Branch Secretariat.

Daily Bulletins

The Bulletin Desk of the Conference Secretariat, housed at Vigyan Bhawan, also issued seven Daily Bulletins during the Conference. The illustrated Daily Bulletins, covering all activities of the Conference, the socio-cultural engagements for the day and other sidelights were delivered to the Delegates in their Hotel rooms every morning.

Library and Reference Counter

A Library and Reference Counter functioned at the venue of the Conference to attend to on-the-spot information requirements of Delegates. Selected newspapers and magazines were also available for consultation at the Counter.

Other Special Features / Facilities

A Reception and Information Counter operated round the clock at the venue to receive Delegates and cater to all their information needs.

A Sales Counter also functioned in the *Vigyan Bhawan* to sell parliamentary publications and Souvenirs.

Banking Service

All banking and foreign exchange services of the Delegates were taken care of by the Central Bank of India Branch at the Ashok Hotel which worked round-the-clock during the Conference. A Foreign Exchange Counter and an ATM of the State Bank of India also functioned at the Business Centre of Vigyan Bhawan during the Conference period.

Medical Centre

Expert and adequate medical attention was available round the clock to the Delegates during the period of the Conference at the venue as well as during the official local visit and post Conference tour.

Conclusion

The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference which brought together nearly 800 members of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Community in New Delhi, came to a close on 28 September 2007. The Conference witnessed lively and often animated interactions on a wide array of issues of common concern to all of us who cherish the noble ideals of democracy and parliamentarism.

It goes without saying that every Parliamentary Conference under the aegis of the CPA is a unique experience which provides a 'special feel', as the Secretary-General Dr. William F. Shija has rightly said. The New Delhi Conference further cemented the bonds of friendship and camaraderie among the Commonwealth parliamentarians. More importantly, the Conference sent out a message that democracy and the Commonwealth go hand in hand, rather they are synonymous in more ways than one.

The CPA has been a torch-bearer of democratic values and fundamental freedoms, which together could preserve and promote human prosperity and development. The greatest threat to democracy comes from iniquity, deprivation and exclusion, besides from forces inimical to Rule of Law and human rights. That being so, in its Annual Conferences, the Association has always endeavoured to bolster the forces of democracy and development, with a view to ensuring peace, progress and prosperity of our peoples.

The 53rd Conference in New Delhi further enhanced India's prestige and reputation as the bulwark of democracy and development. The main theme of the Conference, *'Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development,'* in itself spoke volumes of the tireless efforts towards making the world safe for democracy. In the Workshops and Plenaries, in the many meetings which went along on the sidelines of the main Conference, the delegates passionately espoused the cause of sustainable development as an essential component of democracy. The conscientious belief that the true empowerment of women in all its manifestations is the need of the time found reflection, yet again, in the deliberations at the Women Parliamentarians Conference and in the Gender-related Plenary. The collective support of the Commonwealth community to the welfare

of the smaller jurisdictions was equally pronounced in the varied themes discussed in the Small Countries Conference. The meetings of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table provided an opportunity to the senior parliamentary officers to share their experiences in respect of parliamentary practices and procedures in their countries.

Beyond debating the theme, '*Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development*,' the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference also sought to delineate benchmarks for democratic Legislatures. As the Lok Sabha Speaker, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, emphasized, the benchmarks of yesterday may need to be revised in the context, and new goals and targets set, to make democracy relevant to the people at all times. The 53rd CPA Conference held in New Delhi will indeed go a long way towards furthering the cause of democracy and development in which each nation has a great stake—also an endeavour in which all have to play a proactive and productive role.

4

INAUGURATION OF CHILDREN'S CORNER IN PARLIAMENT LIBRARY

On 21 August 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee inaugurated a well designed, colourful and *hi-tech* Children's Corner in Parliament Library.

In his Inaugural Address, the Speaker, Shri Chatterjee said that the Children's Corner was set up with a view to bringing the children into contact with the parliamentary set-up through literature that may interest them. It is intended to inculcate and encourage good reading habit among children and to enable them to share the resources of the Parliament Library, one of the best in India, and the Parliament Museum and Archives, which would be of great benefit to them.

The idea of setting up the Children's Corner in the Parliament Library was mooted earlier by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, while inaugurating an exhibition of books and photographs on issues relating to children on 14 November 2006 in the Parliament Library. His move was highly appreciated by all the members of the Library Committee at their meeting held on 20 March 2007. The Committee unanimously approved the proposal of setting up the Children's Corner.

The Inaugural function was attended by dignitaries including the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State of the Ministry of Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury; the Vice-President of the Parliamentary Forum on Children, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy; members of Parliament; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T Achary; the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain; Principals of various Schools and Heads of prominent NGOs and others. On the occasion, the children of the Bal Bhawan also presented a cultural programme.

The opening up of a *Children's Corner* in the Parliament Library is a unique arrangement insofar as the Legislature Library is concerned. Such a kind of arrangement for children exists only in the Library of National *Diet* of Japan, besides the Parliament Library of India. The Corner aims at providing access of children between eight and seventeen years of age to books, periodicals and electronic materials available in

the Parliament Library. Special emphasis is given to ensure that the children of marginalized sections of the society, who do not have access to a good and resourceful library, should avail the facility of the *Children's Corner* of Parliament Library.

The main idea behind setting up of a Children's Corner is to make the Children familiar with the rich civilisation and cultural heritage of India, our epic freedom struggle and the importance of the Indian Parliamentary system and its ethos. Through its multimedia centre, the Corner endeavours to make the children an essential component of the global citizenry. It also intends to make the children understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas by making available the best in children literature. It seeks to equip them with life-long learning and literacy skills and thus enable them to actively participate and contribute to the society. In fact, it is designed to constantly respond to the increasing change in the society and meet the information, cultural and entertainment needs of the children.

The *Children's Corner* is located in the Parliament Library Building, decorated in a befitting manner to offer the children a warm, colourful and inviting place to explore for them the collection of books, magazines and other materials available there. The Children's Library comprises about 2,000 books; special racks for display of magazines / newspapers / CDs / DVDs; Computers including touch screen computers; reading facility for 24 children; and colourful Bean Bags for the convenience of small children. Its collection contains classics, encyclopaedias, contemporary fiction, science project books, large print books, reference materials, etc. Special focus has been given to subjects like geography, history, human evolution and folklore of various countries and regions of the world. Various journals (national and international) of children's interest in Hindi as well as in English have also been made available in the *Corner*. Keeping pace with the current information revolution and children's urge for accessing information in electronic form, the *Children's Corner* has also acquired e-literature in the form of CDs/VCDs. Children can watch movies, plays, and other informative programmes on VCDs/Video cassettes from time to time. To make the Children's Corner a lively and interactive hub of activity, efforts are on to organise special events like essay competitions, drawing competitions, elocution competitions, etc. The writings, drawings, etc. awarded during such events would be kept on the Home Page of the Parliament of India.

The Children's Corner functions as a Branch Library of the Parliament Library. It remains open from 1100 hrs. to 1700 hrs. on all working days. Membership of the Children Library is extended to: children/grand-children

of members of Parliament and Ex-MPs, who have obtained membership of Parliament Library; children of the permanent employees of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs; children of the Journalists accredited to the Press Galleries of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha; children sponsored by the registered NGOs (authorized by the Director, Parliament Library); and children sponsored by the recognized schools. Passes for visiting the Children's Corner are issued by the Reception Office, Parliament Library Building, in consultation with the concerned Joint Director/Director of the Parliament Library.

The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee inaugurating the Children's Corner in Parliament Library

A view of the Children's Corner in Parliament Library

5

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF SHRI MAHARANA PRATAP IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 21 August 2007, the statue of Shri Maharana Pratap was unveiled in the precincts of the Parliament House by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

A man of indomitable will and sterling character, a fearless and a skilful warrior, an accomplished commander, an affectionate leader of the people and a patron of arts and architecture, Maharana Pratap became the ruler of Mewar at the age of thirty-two and ruled from 1572 to 1597. He refused to submit to the authority of the Mughals and chose the path of long drawn struggle and endless sacrifices for maintaining the sovereignty of Mewar. An embodiment of bravery and courage, he fought to the last for the kingdom of Mewar, for his people and most importantly for the honour of his kingship and traditions. The saga of Maharana's valiance is a shining example of the commitment to the principles and the spirit of sacrifice for one's self-respect.

The statue of Maharana Pratap, 18-feet in height and made of bronze, has been sculpted by the well-known sculptor Shri Fakir Charan Pareeda. The statue was donated by Shri Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

The function to unveil the statue was attended, among others by the former Vice-President of India, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat; former Prime Minister of India, Shri V.P. Singh; the Leader of the House and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Subbulakshmi Jagadeesan; the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ms. Vasundhra Raje; former Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Manohar Joshi;

Chairman, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), Dr. Karan Singh; members and former members of Parliament and other distinguished guests.

A booklet containing the profile of Maharana Pratap brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, was distributed among the dignitaries on the occasion.

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the statue of Maharana Pratap in the Parliament House by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee

Dignitaries after the unveiling of the statue of Kittur Rani Channamma in the Parliament House by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil

6

UNVEILING OF THE STATUE OF KITTUR RANI CHANNAMMA IN PARLIAMENT HOUSE

On 11 September 2007, the statue of Kittur Rani Channamma was unveiled in the precincts of the Parliament House by the President of India, Shrimati Pratibha Devisingh Patil.

Rani Channamma, the brave warrior queen of Kittur, was one of the first women freedom fighters to take up cudgels against the British rule in the very early years of the national liberation movement. A woman of rare courage and patriotism, Rani Channamma, through her gallant deeds, became a legend in her own lifetime. It was due to her signal contribution to the country's freedom struggle that Kittur, a small Princely State, now situated in the Belgaum district of Karnataka, attained its fame. The valour, sacrifice and indomitable spirit displayed by her to defend Kittur form a glorious chapter in the history of India's freedom struggle. Rani Channamma is often referred to as 'The Morning Star of India's Freedom Struggle'.

The statue of Rani Channamma has been sculpted by the well-known sculptor, Shri Vijay Gujar and was donated by the Kittur Rani Channamma Memorial Committee, Kittur.

The function for unveiling of the statue was attended, among others by the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh; Union Ministers; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri H.D. Kumaraswamy; members and former members of Parliament and other distinguished guests.

A booklet containing the profile of Rani Channamma brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, was distributed among the dignitaries on the occasion.

PARLIAMENTARY EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, New Delhi: The 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference, hosted jointly by the India Union CPA Branch and the State CPA Branches, was held at New Delhi from 21 to 30 September 2007. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, inaugurated the Conference on 25 September 2007 at the Plenary Hall of Vigyan Bhawan. The Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Lok Sabha Speaker and President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; and the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Malaysia and Vice-President of the CPA, Mr. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Di Raja Ramli Ngah Tabli addressed the dignitaries. A Message from the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was also the Vice-Patron of the CPA, was read out by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi, while the Message from the Patron of the CPA, Queen Elizabeth II, was read out by the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The President, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil, also released a Commemorative Souvenir brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat to mark the Conference. The Conference was attended by nearly 800 parliamentarians, legislators, Observers, Clerks/ Secretaries-General / Secretaries of Legislatures, invitees, spouses and accompanying persons from the Commonwealth, including delegates representing the CPA India Region and State Branches. The main theme of the Conference was *'Delivering Democracy and Sustainable Development'*, the varied dimensions of which were dealt with in six Workshops:

- Climate Change and Global Warming: Policy Issues and Solutions;
- Global Water and Energy Use: Towards Sustainable Development;
- Balancing Economic Development and Environmental Protection;

- Parliamentary Practice and Procedure: Need for Reforms to Secure Greater Executive Accountability;
- The Role, Rights and Responsibilities of the Opposition; and
- Strengthening Financial Scrutiny

The Three Plenaries during the Conference deliberated on the following themes:

- Gender-related Plenary: The Role of Parliamentarians in Raising Awareness of and Curbing Human Trafficking;
- Host Branch Plenary: Right to Recall as a Strategy for Enforcing Greater Accountability of Parliaments to the People; and
- Final Plenary: Benchmarks for Democratic Legislatures

Preceding the Main Conference, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari, inaugurated the 27th Small Countries' Conference of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) on 23 September 2007. The Lok Sabha Speaker and President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairman, CPA Executive Committee, Shri Hashim Abdul Halim; the Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Shri A. Raja; Ms. Anne Valerie Craine from Isle of Man, who was also the Chairperson of the Small Countries' Conference; and the Speaker of the Parliament of Gibraltar, Shri Haresh K. Budhrani, also addressed the distinguished gathering.

At the Inaugural function, the Vice-President also released a special Commemorative Stamp, brought out by the Ministry of Communications, Department of Posts, Government of India, to mark the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference. The delegates of small countries held discussions on the following themes:

- Parliamentary Initiatives of Managing the Effects of Globalization on Small Countries;
- Collaborative versus Adversarial Systems of Government in Small Countries;
- Regulating Immigration and Human Trafficking; and
- Protecting the Environment to Assure Sustainable Development.

The First Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP)

Conference*, also held preceding the Plenary Conference, was inaugurated by the Lok Sabha Speaker and President of the CPA, Shri Somnath Chatterjee at the Vigyan Bhawan on 24 September 2007. The Minister of State for Women and Child Development and President of the CWP, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury; the Chairperson, CWP, Ms. Lindiwe Maseko; and the Secretary-General of the CPA, Dr. William F. Shija, addressed the distinguished gathering. The delegates of the CWP discussed the following two themes:

- Strategies to Overcome Barriers Preventing Women's Equal Participation in Decision Making; and
- The Role of Women Parliamentarians in Dealing with HIV/ AIDS and Poverty Reduction.

An Exhibition on the theme of the Conference, 'Democracy and Sustainable Development' was organized by the Parliamentary Museum and Archives of the Lok Sabha Secretariat along with the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity. The Exhibition, inaugurated by the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 24 September 2007, covered three themes: (i) Parliamentary Democracy in India; (ii) Sustainable Development; and (iii) Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The Meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee, Executive Committee / Sub-Committee of CPA, CWP Steering Committee, and Regional Groups were held during the Conference. The New Executive Committee of the CPA, elected at the New Delhi Conference, announced that Malaysia would host the 54th CPA Conference in 2008 and Ghana in 2010**. The United Kingdom reiterated its commitment to host the CPA Conference in 2011.

Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table at the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference: The 44th General Meeting of the Society of Clerks-at-the-Table was held from 26 to 28 September 2007 during the Conference. It was represented by the Secretaries-General / Clerks /

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* Women Delegates founded the CWP in 1989 in Barbados at the Plenary of the 35th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference so that women at future Conferences could discuss ways to increase women representation in Parliament and work towards the mainstreaming of gender considerations in all CPA activities and programmes. The meeting of CWP Steering Committee, comprising Chairperson and one member from each region, are held in this direction. In 2004, the group was formally recognized in the CPA Constitution and its elected Chairperson was added to the CPA Executive Committee. In 2007, the first Conference of CWP was held during the 53rd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference at New Delhi.

** The venue for the 2009 Conference yet remains undecided.

Secretaries of member Parliaments and Legislatures and they discussed matters relating to practices and procedure and parliamentary developments in their respective countries. During the Meetings, the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T. Achary made presentations on parliamentary developments and topical issues in India and on the 'Relationship between the Legislature Secretariat and the Executive'. He also spoke on the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training wherein he listed out the varied activities of the Bureau.

Seventh Session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification Forum: The Seventh Session of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) was held in Madrid, Spain on 12 and 13 September 2007 and was attended by Shri Kunwar Rewati Raman Singh, MP. During the Session, the participants held discussions on the following themes:

- Implementation of the UNCCD: Role of Major Cooperating Partners;
- Challenges of Forced Migration due to Drought and Desertification;
- Preventing Conflicts over Scarce Resources;
- Meeting the Challenges of Combating Desertification as they relate to Climate Change;
- Mainstreaming Action Programmes to Combat Desertification into National Development Strategies; and
- Good Governance and the Challenges of Combating Desertification.

Function to Commemorate the 60th Anniversary of India's Independence: A function to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of India's Independence was held on 15 August 2007 in the Central Hall of Parliament House. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil; the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh; and the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee addressed the distinguished gathering. Renowned artists Pandit Jasraj, Shri Javed Akhtar, Smt. Shabana Azmi and Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, along with his two sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan, performed during the function. A documentary film on Independence prepared by the Lok Sabha Television was also screened on the occasion. The function was attended by the dignitaries including Union Ministers; former Prime Ministers; former Speakers of

Lok Sabha; members of Parliament; members of the Indian Parliamentary Group; diplomats and other distinguished invitees.

Function to confer Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards: A function was organized by the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to confer the Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006 in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 13 September 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, delivered the Welcome Address. The Awards were conferred by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on Shri Sharad Pawar, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Shri P. Chidambaram and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar, all members of Parliament for the years 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2006, respectively. The Vice-President of India and Chairman Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari; the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; Sarvashri Sharad Pawar, P. Chidambaram, Mani Shankar Aiyar and Smt. Sushma Swaraj also addressed the distinguished gathering at the function. Instituted by the Indian Parliamentary Group in the year 1995, the Outstanding Parliamentarian Award is bestowed on parliamentarians of great eminence for their long-standing contribution towards strengthening the parliamentary edifice.

Unveiling of statues in Parliament House Complex: On 21 August 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee unveiled the statue of Maharana Pratap in the Parliament House Complex. The statue of Maharana Pratap, a fearless warrior, an accomplished commander, a man of indomitable will and sterling character and an affectionate leader of the people, was sculpted by Shri Fakir Charan Pareeda, and donated by Shri Jaswant Singh, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha.

On the occasion, the booklet containing the profile of Maharana Pratap brought out by the Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, was distributed among the dignitaries.

On 11 September 2007, the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil unveiled the statue of Kittur Rani Channamma in the Parliament House Complex. The statue of Kittur Rani Channamma, the brave warrior queen and one of the first Indian women freedom fighters to take up cudgels against the British rule in the very early years of national liberation movement, was sculpted by Shri Vijay Gujar and donated by Kittur Rani Channamma Memorial Committee, Kittur. A booklet containing the profile of Rani Channamma brought out by the

Lok Sabha Secretariat, both in English and Hindi, was distributed on the occasion.

Inauguration of Children's Corner: On 21 August 2007, the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee, inaugurated a well-designed, colourful and hi-tech Children's Corner in the Parliament Library. The Corner aims at providing access of children between eight and seventeen years of age to books, other documents and electronic materials available in its Library. Special emphasis is given to ensure that the children of marginalized sections of the society, who do not have access to a good and resourceful library, should avail the facility of the Children's Corner of Parliament Library. The main idea behind setting up of the Children's Corner is to make the children familiar with the rich civilisation and cultural heritage of India, the epic freedom struggle and the importance of parliamentary system and parliamentary heritage. It also intends to make the children understand the value of tolerance and respect for diverse cultures, languages and ideas by making available the best in children literature. It seeks to equip them with life long learning and literacy skills and thus enable them to actively participate and contribute to the society. In fact, it is designed to constantly respond to the increasing change in the society and meet the information, cultural and entertainment needs of the children.

The Inaugural function was attended by the dignitaries including the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Deputy Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Charnjit Singh Atwal; the Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Women and Child Development, Smt. Renuka Chowdhury; the Vice-President of Parliamentary Forum on Children, Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy; members of Parliament; the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha, Shri P.D.T Achary; the then Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha, Dr. Yogendra Narain; Principals of various Schools; and Heads of prominent NGOs and others. On the occasion, children of Bal Bhawan presented a cultural programme.

Address by the Prime Minister of Japan: On 22 August 2007, the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe addressed the members of Parliament in the Central Hall of Parliament House. On the occasion, the Vice-President of India and Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari delivered the Welcome Address and the Speaker, Lok Sabha and President of the Indian Parliamentary Group , Shri Somnath Chatterjee gave the Thanks Giving Address. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh also graced the occasion.

BIRTH ANNIVERSARIES OF NATIONAL LEADERS

On the birth anniversaries of national leaders whose portraits adorn the Central Hall of Parliament House, functions are organized under the auspices of the Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG) to pay tributes to the leaders. Booklets containing profiles of these leaders, prepared by the Library and Reference, Research, Documentation and Information Service (LARRDIS) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, are brought out on the occasion.

The birth anniversaries of the following leaders were celebrated during the period 1 July to 30 September 2007:

Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, a function was held on 6 July 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; the Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha, Shri Jaswant Singh; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, a function was held on 23 July 2007. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of the United Progressive Alliance (UPA), Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the House in Lok Sabha and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Shri T.R. Baalu; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Shri Rajiv Gandhi: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, a function was held on 20 August 2007. The Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Chairperson of UPA, Smt. Sonia Gandhi; the Leader of the House in Lok Sabha and Minister of External Affairs, Shri Pranab Mukherjee; the Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs,

Food & Public Distribution, Shri Sharad Pawar; the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil; the Minister of Minority Affairs, Shri A.R. Antulay; the Minister of Power, Shri Sushilkumar Shinde; the Minister of Mines, Shri Sis Ram Ola; the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Shri P.R. Kyndiah; the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport & Highways, Shri T.R. Baalu; the Minister of Water Resources, Prof. Saif-ud-din Soz; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Information & Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi; the Minister of Tourism and Minister of Culture, Smt. Ambika Soni; the Minister of Science & Technology and Minister of Earth Sciences, Shri Kapil Sibal; the Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri K. Rahman Khan; the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Kumari Selja; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri B.K. Handique; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications & Information Technology, Dr. Shakeel Ahmad; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, Shri Kantilal Bhuria; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Shri Namo Narain Meena; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Mines, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy; the Minister of State in the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Shri Ashwani Kumar; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Smt. D. Purandeswari; former Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Bali Ram Bhagat; members of Parliament; former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

Dadabhai Naoroji: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Dadabhai Naoroji, a function was held on 4 September 2007. The Speaker, Lok Sabha, Shri Somnath Chatterjee; the Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Shri L.K. Advani; former members of Parliament and others paid floral tributes.

EXCHANGE OF PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS

Meetings of Parliamentary Friendship Groups

India-Germany: A Luncheon meeting of India-Germany Parliamentary Friendship Group headed by Shri Kailash Joshi, MP and President of the Group with the visiting German Parliamentary Delegation headed by

Dr. Norbert Lammert, President of German *Bundestag* was held on 17 August 2007.

BUREAU OF PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES AND TRAINING

During the period 1 July to 30 September 2007, the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) organised the following courses/programmes:

Lecture Series for Members of Parliament: As part of the Lecture Series for members of Parliament, which was started during the Fifth Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, the following Lecture Sessions were organized: (i) Lecture on "Role of Parliamentarians in Advancing Children's Rights by Ms. Marta Santos Pais, Director, Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, Itlay, held on 23 August 2007; (ii) Lecture on "The Spirit and Form of Indian Unity: Lessons for Today from Freedom Struggle" by Prof. Sugata Bose, Harvard University, USA, held on 30 August 2007; and (iii) Lecture on "Farm Crisis: Why Have Over One Lakh Farmers Killed Themselves in the Last Decade?" by Shri P. Sainath, Rural Editor, "*The Hindu*", held on 6 September 2007.

Training Classes: Training Classes in Hindi for non-Hindi speaking members of Lok Sabha were organised from 13 August to 14 September 2007.

Study Visits: During the period, the following Study Visits were conducted by the Bureau: (i) Study Visit by two officials from Tanzanian Parliament, from 6 to 10 August 2007; and (ii) Study Visit by the 21 officers of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Thailand, on 11 September 2007.

In addition, 14 other Study Visits for the benefit of the officers/staff/ students from various organizations/institutes/schools were conducted by the Bureau. A total of 353 participants attended these visits.

Appreciation Courses: During the period, Appreciation Courses in Parliamentary Processes and Procedure were organised for: (i) Probationers of Indian Forest Service from 23 to 27 July 2007; (ii) Senior Accounts Officers from the Office of Comptroller and Auditor General of India from 30 July to 3 August 2007; and (iii) Probationers of Indian Railway Personnel Service, Indian Revenue Service (Customs & Central Excise) and Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering from 6 to 10 August 2007.

Training Programmes/Courses: The Bureau also organized (i) Training

Programme for six Auditors of the National Assembly of Afghanistan from 6 to 10 August 2007; (ii) Training Course for the Officers/ Assistants of Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats dealing with Questions, Legislative and Budgetary Processes from 2 to 6 July 2007; (iii) Training Course for the Watch & Ward officials of the Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and State Legislature Secretariats from 20 to 24 August 2007; and (iv) Computer Training Programme on "Power Point Presentation" for the Officers of Lok Sabha Secretariat from 9 to 12 July 2007.

Orientation Programme for Media: An Orientation Programme was organized by the Bureau for the Media Persons covering the proceedings of the Parliament from 17 to 18 August 2007.

PRIVILEGE ISSUES

During the period (1 July to 30 September 2007), no sitting of the Committee on Ethics was held. However, three sittings of the Committee of Privileges were held on 23 July 2007, 13 and 14 September 2007. The Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha held 4 sittings on 3 and 24 July, 6 and 16 August 2007. The details of all the sittings are given below.

At its sitting on 23 July 2007, the Committee of Privileges (i) held further discussions on parliamentary privileges, codification and other related matters; (ii) considered the matter regarding requests from Courts and investigating agencies for documents pertaining to proceedings of the House/Committee and documents in the custody of the Secretary-General, Lok Sabha for production in courts of Law for investigating purposes; and (iii) considered the matter regarding petitions given by Shri Rajesh Verma, MP and leader of the Bahujan Samaj Party in the Lok Sabha under the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution and Rules thereunder against the members Sarvashri Bhal Chandra Yadav, Ramakant Yadav, and Mohammed Shahid. The petitions were given by the member on 26 March 2007 and on 9 August 2007, which were referred to the Committee of Privileges by the Speaker in terms of provisions of rule 7(4) of the Members of Lok Sabha (Disqualification on grounds of Defection) Rules, 1985 for making a preliminary inquiry and submit a report to him.

At its second sitting on 13 September 2007, the Committee while holding further deliberations in the matter, took oral evidence of the petitioner, Shri Rajesh Verma and also of the three respondents, *viz.* Sarvashri Bhal Chandra Yadav, Ramakant Yadav and Mohammed Shahid.

The Committee at its third sitting on 14 September 2007, considered the matter regarding casting of aspersions on members of Parliament by Shri Ronen Sen, India's Ambassador in USA in an interview given to Rediff News Agency on India-US Civil Nuclear Agreement and took oral evidence of Sarvashri Gurudas Das Gupta, Ajay Chakraborty and Rupchand Pal, MPs, who had given notices of question of privilege on 21 and 22 August 2007 in the matter to the Speaker, who,

in exercise of his powers under rule 227 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha, referred the same, on 30 August 2007, to the Committee of Privileges for examination, investigation and report.

The Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha, which was constituted on 16 May 2007 was referred a matter relating to the complaint by Smt. Pramila Kumari Manjhi against her husband Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, MP, for his alleged misconduct, by the Speaker for inquiry and report on 18 May 2007. The Committee took oral evidence of Smt. Pramila Kumari Manjhi, and Shri Kaushlendra Kumar Sinha, Personal Assistant of the member in the matter on 3 July 2007.

The Committee at its sittings held on 24 July 2007 and 6 August 2007, took oral evidence of Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, MP in the matter.

The Committee at its sitting on 16 August 2007 considered and adopted the draft Report in the matter. The Report was presented to the Speaker on 20 August 2007 and the same was laid on the Table of the House on 23 August 2007. A Motion was moved by the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, on 30 August 2007, to suspend Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, MP, for thirty sittings of the House on the basis of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the Committee. The Motion was adopted by the House.

The Fifth Report on the question of privilege notice of which was given on 23 November 2005, against the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and Deputy Superintendent of Police, Madhubani, Bihar for allegedly detaining Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, MP without genuine grounds, was presented to the Speaker, Lok Sabha on 23 May 2007 and laid on the Table on 7 September 2007.

PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Instance when Motion for suspension of a Member was adopted on the recommendation of the Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha: On 30 August 2007, after the Question Hour, a Motion was moved by the Leader of the House, Shri Pranab Mukherjee to suspend Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, MP for thirty sittings of the House on the basis of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the "Committee to Inquire into Misconduct of Members of Lok Sabha" in their first report, laid on the Table of the House on 23 August 2007. The Motion was adopted by the House.

Instance when the Chair directed member to withdraw from the House: On 14 August 2007, the Speaker directed Shri P.C. Thomas, MP to withdraw from the House as he continued to disturb the Proceedings by raising an issue, in defiance of Speaker's Order. The member withdrew accordingly.

Instances when the Chair allowed members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House: On 22 August 2007, during discussion on the Supplementary Demand for Grants (General) for the year 2007-08, the Chair permitted one member (Shri Ganesh Singh) to lay his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 23 August 2007, during discussion on the Supplementary Demand for Grants (Railways) for the year 2007-08, the Chair announced that due to long list and paucity of time, members may lay their written speeches on the Table on the House. Accordingly, 37 members laid their written speeches and 17 members laid some portions of their written speeches on the Table of House.

On 24 August 2007, during further discussion under rule 193 on the situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country, the Chair permitted two members, Smt. P. Jaya Prada Nahata and Shri Kunnur Manjunath Channappa to lay their written speeches and also Shri Munshiram, member to lay some portions of his written speech, on the Table of the House.

On 29 August 2007, during further discussion under rule 193 on the situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country, the Chair permitted two members, Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir and Shri Raghuraj Singh Shakya to lay their written speeches and one member

Shri Prahlad Venkatesh Joshi to lay a portion of his written speech on the Table of the House.

On 30 August 2007, during further discussion under rule 193 on the situation arising out of floods in various parts of the country, the Chair permitted nine members to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House.

Instance when the Chair allowed members, whose names were not in the List of Business, to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention Motions: On 20 August 2007, the Speaker allowed two members, Shri K.V. Thangkabalu and Shri A. Krishnaswamy, whose names were not in the List of Business to ask clarificatory questions on the Calling Attention regarding proposed formation of Salem Railway Division by bifurcating Palghat Railway Division.

10

PARLIAMENTARY AND CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

(1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007)

Events covered in this Feature are based primarily on reports appearing in the daily newspapers and, as such, the Lok Sabha Secretariat does not accept any responsibility for their accuracy, authenticity or veracity.

—Editor

INDIA

DEVELOPMENTS AT THE UNION

Election of the New President:* The thirteenth election to the office of the President was held on 19 July 2007. Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil was declared elected as the President of the Republic on 21 July 2007. Smt. Patil was sworn in the new President by the Chief Justice of India, Justice K.G. Balakrishnan at a solemn function held in the Central Hall of Parliament House on 25 July 2007.

Resignation of Vice-President: On 21 July 2007, the Vice-President and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the post of President, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat resigned soon after being defeated by the UPA-Left nominee Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil in the thirteenth Presidential election.

*Election of the New Vice-President***: On 10 August 2007, Shri Mohammad Hamid Ansari was elected as the thirteenth Vice-President of India. He was administered the oath of office by the President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on 11 August 2007.

Parliament Session: The Eleventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok

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* For details, refer to the Short Note on *"Thirteenth Presidential Election"* in the September 2007 issue of the *JPI*

** For details, refer to feature Short Note on *"Thirteenth Vice-Presidential Election"* in the September 2007 issue of the *JPI*

Sabha and the Two Hundred and Eleventh Session of the Rajya Sabha commenced on 10 August 2007. Both the Houses of Parliament were adjourned *sine die* on 10 September 2007. The President of India, Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil prorogued the two Houses on 11 September 2007.

Elections to Rajya Sabha: On 8 June 2007, elections to six seats of Rajya Sabha from Tamil Nadu were held. Those elected were: Shri A. Elavarasan and Dr. V. Maitreyan (All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam); Shri Tiruchi Siva and Smt. Kanimozhi (Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam); Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan (Indian National Congress); and Shri D. Raja (Communist Party of India). Their term of office commenced on 25 July 2007. While Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan took oath/ affirmation on 25 July 2007, Shri Tiruchi Siva, Shri D. Raja and Smt. Kanimozhi took oath/affirmation on 26 July 2007 and Shri A. Elavarasan and Dr. V. Maitreyan took oath / affirmation on 1 August 2007.

Shri Ambeth Rajan of the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) was declared elected to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh in the election held on 24 September 2007. Shri Rajan's term of office commenced on 26 September 2007 and he took oath/affirmation on 15 October 2007.

Lok Sabha By-elections Results: On 5 June 2007, Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was declared elected from Hamirpur Lok Sabha Constituency (Himachal Pradesh), by-election to which was held on 2 June 2007. Prof. Dhumal took oath/ affirmation on 10 August 2007.

On 2 September 2007, Smt. Suman Mahato of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) was declared elected from Jamshedpur Lok Sabha Constituency (Jharkhand), by-election to which was held on 29 August 2007. Smt. Mahato took oath/affirmation on 6 September 2007.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha Member: On 5 July 2007, Kumari Mayawati, a Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) member of the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh resigned her seat.

Death of Rajya Sabha Member: On 25 September 2007, Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) member of the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat passed away.

Disqualification of Lok Sabha Member: Shri Krishna Murari Moghe of the BJP from Khargone Lok Sabha Constituency of Madhya Pradesh incurred disqualification *w.e.f.* 10 July 2007 from the membership of the Lok Sabha in terms of the provision of article 102 of the Constitution.

Resignation of Lok Sabha Member: On 13 September 2007, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri of the BJP resigned his membership in Lok Sabha. He was elected from Garhwal (Uttarakhand) Lok Sabha Constituency.

Suspension of RJD MP for 30 Sittings from Lok Sabha: On 30 August 2007, Shri Rajesh Kumar Manjhi, a Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) member was reprimanded by the Lok Sabha and suspended for 30 sittings of the House. The member was also restrained from taking his spouse or companion on official tours till the conclusion of the 14th Lok Sabha.

Death of Lok Sabha Members: On 8 July 2007, Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister and a Samajwadi Janata Party (Rashtriya){SJP(R)} member of the Lok Sabha from Ballia Constituency of Uttar Pradesh passed away.

On 1 August 2007, Dr. Ajit Kumar Singh of the Janata Dal (United) (JD-U) member of the Lok Sabha from Bikramganj Constituency of Bihar passed away.

AROUND THE STATES

ANDHRA PRADESH

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri N.D. Tiwari was appointed as Governor of Andhra Pradesh, replacing Shri Rameshwar Thakur, holding additional charge as Governor of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Tiwari was sworn in on 22 August 2007.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri K. Sankaranarayanan, Governor of Nagaland was given additional charge as Governor of Arunachal Pradesh. Shri Sankaranarayanan was sworn in on 4 September 2007.

DELHI

Death of former Chief Minister: On 30 June 2007, former Chief Minister Shri Sahib Singh Verma, died in a road accident on the Delhi-Jaipur highway in Rajasthan.

HARYANA

Expansion of Cabinet: On 5 September 2007, Chief Minister Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda inducted two new members into his Cabinet

and reshuffled the portfolios of several Ministers. The new Ministers inducted are Sarvashri A.C. Choudhary and Mange Ram Gupta.

The names of Ministers with their portfolios* is as follows: Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda, Chief Minister, *Administration of Justice, Architecture, Development & Panchayats, General Administration & Administrative Reforms, Home, Jails, Hospitality, Electronics* and *Information Technology, Legislative, Public Relations, Personnel & Training, Raj Bhawan Affairs, Town & Country Planning* and *Urban Estates, Housing, Civil Aviation* and any other Department not specifically allotted to any Minister; Shri Chander Mohan, *Deputy Chief Minister, Food & Supplies, Printing & Stationery, Science & Technology*, and *Renewable Energy*; Sarvashri Birender Singh, *Finance, Excise & Taxation, Planning* and *Institutional Finance & Credit Control*; Harmohinder Singh Chatha, *Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Fisheries* and *Cooperation*; Mange Ram Gupta, *Transport* and *Education & Languages*; A.C. Choudhary, *Urban Local Bodies, Industrial Training & Vocational Education, Technical Education* and *Labour & Employment*; Lachhman Dass Arora, *Industries & Commerce* and *Mines & Geology*; Randeep Singh Surjewala, *Power, Parliamentary Affairs* and *Water Supply & Sanitation*; Captain Ajay Singh, *Public Works Department (Building & Roads), Irrigation* and *Elections*; and Smt. Kartar Devi, *Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare & Empowerment, Women* and *Child Development* and *Welfare of Scheduled Castes* and *Backward Classes*.

The names of the Ministers of State (Independent Charge) with their portfolios is as follows: Smt. Kiran Choudhary, *Forest, Tourism, Environment* and *Sports & Youth Affairs*; Smt. Savitri Jindal, *Revenue & Disaster Management, Consolidation* and *Rehabilitation*; and Smt. Meena Rani, *Archeology* and *Museums, Archives* and *Cooperation* (attached with Cooperation Minister).

KARNATAKA

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Governor of Orissa was transferred and appointed as Governor of Karnataka for the remainder of his term *vice* Shri T.N. Chaturvedi on expiry of his term of office on 20 August 2007. Shri Thakur was sworn in on 21 August 2007.

Resignation of Minister: On 29 September 2007, Tourism Minister Shri B. Sriramulu resigned from the Council of Ministers.

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* As on 1 February 2008

KERALA

Resignation of Minister: On 3 September 2007, Public Works Minister, Shri T.U. Kuruvilla resigned from his post.

ORISSA

Resignation of Minister: On 17 August 2007, School and Mass Education Minister, Shri Bishnu Charan Das resigned from his post in the wake of the controversy over alleged discrepancies in the matriculation mark-sheet of his son.

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri Murlidhar Chandrakant Bhandare, was appointed as the Governor of Orissa, replacing Shri Rameshwar Thakur. Shri Bhandare was sworn in on 21 August 2007.

RAJASTHAN

Expulsion of Party MLA: On 12 August 2007, the BJP expelled its party MLA, Shri Prahlad Gunjal for "anti-party activities".

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri Shilendra Kumar Singh, Governor of Arunachal Pradesh was transferred and appointed as Governor of Rajasthan for the remainder of his term *vice* Dr. A.R. Kidwai on expiry of his term of office. Shri Singh was sworn in on 6 September 2007.

SIKKIM

New Governor: On 19 August 2007, Shri Sudarshan Agarwal, Governor of Uttarakhand was transferred and appointed as Governor of Sikkim for the remainder of his term *vice* Shri V. Rama Rao on expiry of his term of office on 24 October 2007. (Shri Agarwal was sworn in on 25 October 2007).

UTTARAKHAND

By-Election Result: On 2 September 2007, Major General (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri of the BJP was declared elected from Dhumakote Assembly Constituency, by-election for which was held on 29 August 2007.

UTTAR PRADESH

Mayawati elected to State Legislative Council: On 28 June 2007, Kumari Mayawati and Shri Swami Prasad Maurya both belonging to

BSP were elected unopposed to the State Legislative Council. Both took oath/affirmation on 3 July 2007.

By-Election Results: By-elections to three Assembly constituencies were held on 31 August 2007 and the results were declared on 3 September 2007. While Nawab Kazim Ali Khan and Shri Anant Misra, both of the BSP were declared elected from Suar Tanda and Farrukhabad Assembly Constituencies, respectively, Shri Pradeep Kumar *alias* Guddu of the Samajwadi Party was declared elected from Gunnaur.

Resignation of Ministers: On 5 September 2007, Minister for Science and Technology Shri Sudhir Goel resigned from the Council of Ministers, citing health reasons.

On 26 September 2007, the Minister of State for Land Development and Water Resources (Independent Charge) Shri Raghunath Prasad Shankhwar whose name reportedly figured during probe into purchase of drugs during his tenure as Chief Medical Officer of Barabanki district resigned from the Mayawati Government.

EVENTS ABROAD

ALBANIA

New President: On 20 July 2007, the People's Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) elected Mr. Bamir Topi as the country's new President. Mr. Topi was sworn in on 24 July 2007 replacing Gen. (Retd.) Alfred Moisiu.

BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS

Legislative Elections: The Virgin Islands Party (VIP) won in the legislative elections held on 20 August 2007, securing 10 seats in the 15-member Legislative Council (the Unicameral Legislature). The incumbent National Democratic Party (NDP) won two seats and an independent candidate secured one (the two remaining seats were reserved for the Speaker of the Legislature and the Attorney General).

CAMEROON

Legislative Elections: The elections to 180-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 22 July 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Cameroon People's Democratic Movement: 140; Social Democratic Front: 14; Cameroon Democratic Union: 4; National Union for Democracy and Progress: 4; Progressive Movement: 1; and Unfilled: 17 (the Supreme Court nullified

the results in five districts affecting a total of 17 seats on account of various irregularities).

CONGO

Legislative Elections: The elections to 137-member National Assembly (the lower chamber of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 24 June and 5 August 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Congolese Labour Party: 46; Congolese Movement for Democracy and Integral Development: 11; Pan-African Union for Social Democracy: 11; Action Movement for Renewal: 5; Movement for Solidarity and Development: 5; Club 2002-Party for Unity and the Republic: 3; Take Action for Congo: 3; New Democratic Forces: 2; Union for the Republic: 2; Patriotic Union for Democracy and Progress: 2; Union for Progress: 2; Rally for Democracy and Social Progress: 2; Movement For Democracy And Progress: 1; Union of Democratic Forces: 1; Youth Movement: 1; Citizens' Rally: 1; Life Party: 1; Union for Democracy and the Republic: 1; and Independents: 37.

New Speaker: On 4 September 2007, the National Assembly elected Mr. Justin Koumba as the Speaker.

EAST TIMOR

Legislative Elections: The elections to 65-seat National Parliament (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 30 June 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor): 21; National Congress for the Reconstruction of Timor: 18; Social Democratic Party-Timorese Social Democratic Association: 11; Democratic Party: 8; National Unity Party: 3; Democratic Alliance: 2; and National Unity of Timorese Resistance:2.

New Prime Minister: On 6 August 2007, President Mr. José Ramos Horta appointed former President Mr. Kay Rala Xanana Gusmao (formerly known as Jose Xanana Gusmao) as the Prime Minister of East Timor.

GREECE

Legislative Elections: The elections to 300-seat *Vouli* (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 16 September 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: New Democracy: 152; Panhellenic Socialist Movement: 102; Communist Party of Greece: 22; Coalition of the Radical Left: 14; and Populist Orthodox Rally: 10.

GUATEMALA

Legislative Elections: The elections to 158-seat National Parliament

(the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 9 September 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: National Union for Hope: 48; Grand National Alliance: 37; Patriotic Party: 30; Guatemalan Republican Front: 15; Unionist Party: 8; Centre for Social Action: 5; Encounter for Guatemala: 4; National Advancement Party: 4; Nationalist Change Union: 4; Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity-MAIZE: 2; and Democratic Union: 1.

JAMAICA

Legislative Elections: In the elections to the 60-seat House of Representatives (the lower house of the Bicameral Legislature) held on 3 September 2007, Mr. Bruce Golding's Opposition Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) won 33 seats while the People's National Party secured 27 seats.

New Prime Minister: On 11 September 2007, Mr. Bruce Golding was sworn in as the Prime Minister.

JAPAN

New Prime Minister: On 23 September 2007, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda was sworn in as the Prime Minister, replacing Mr. Shinzo Abe.

KAZAKHSTAN

Legislative Elections: The elections to 98-seat *Mazhilish* (the lower chamber of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 18 August 2007. The ruling Nur Otan party, led by President Mr. Nursultan Nazarbayev, won all the seats.

LATVIA

New President: On 8 July 2007, Mr. Valdis Zatlers was sworn in as the country's new President. He succeeded Mr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, who had served two four-year terms in the office.

New Speaker: On 24 September 2007, Mr. Gundars Daudze of the Union of Greens and Farmers was elected as the Speaker of the *Saeima* (Unicameral Legislature).

MADAGASCAR

Legislative Elections: The elections to 127-seat National Assembly (the lower chamber of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 23 September 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: I Love Madagascar: 106; Economic Liberalism and Democratic Action for National Recovery: 1; and Independents: 20.

MALI

Legislative Elections: The elections to 147-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held in two rounds on 1 and 22 July 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Alliance for Democracy and Progress: 113; Rally for Mali: 11; Party for National Renewal: 4; African Solidarity for Democracy and Independence: 4; and Independents: 15.

New Speaker: On 3 September 2007, Mr. Dioncounda Traore was elected as the new Speaker of the National Assembly.

Resignation of Prime Minister: On 27 September 2007, Mr. Ousmane Issoufi Maïga resigned as Prime Minister.

New Prime Minister: On 28 September 2007, President Gen. (Retd.) Amadou Toumani Touré appointed Mr. Modibo Sidibé as the new Prime Minister.

MOROCCO

Legislative Elections: The elections to 325-seat (i.e. *Majlis al-Nuwab*) House of Representatives–the lower chamber of the Bicameral Legislature) were held on 7 September 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Istiqlal: 52; Justice and Development Party: 46; Popular Movement: 41; National Rally of Independents: 39; Socialist Union of Popular Forces: 38; Constitutional Union: 27; Party for Progress and Socialism: 17; National Democratic Party-Al Ahd Party: 14; Front of Democratic Forces: 9; Socialist Democratic Movement: 9; Democratic Socialist Avant-garde Party-National Congress Party-United Socialist Party: 6; Labour Party: 5; Party of Environment and Development: 5; Party of Renewal and Equality: 4; Moroccan Union for Democracy: 2; Socialist Party: 2; Development and Citizenship Initiative: 1; Alliance of Liberties: 1; Party of Renaissance and Virtue: 1; Citizens' Forces: 1; and Independents: 5.

NAURU

Legislative Elections: The elections to 18-seat Parliament (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 24 August 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: Non-partisan Followers of Ludwig Scotty (including Nauru First): 15; and Others: 3.

President Re-elected: On 28 August 2007, Mr. Ludwig Scotty was re-elected as the President.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Legislative Elections: The elections to 109-seat National Parliament (the unicameral legislature) were held during 30 June—15 July 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: National Alliance Party: 28; PNG Party: 8; People's Action Party: 6; Pangu Pati: 5; People's Democratic Movement: 5; United Resources Party:5; People's Progress Party:5; People's National Congress Party:5; New Generation Party:4; Rural Development Party:4; People's Party:3; Melanesian Liberal Party:2; People's Labour Party:2; PNG Country Party:2; United Party:2; Melanesian Alliance Party:1; National Advance Party:1; People First Party:1; PNG Conservative Party:1; PNG Labour Party:1; PNG National Party:1 and Independents:16. (Election nullified in one seat).

Prime Minister Re-elected: On 6 August 2007, Governor General Sir Paulias Matane invited incumbent caretaker Prime Minister, Sir Michael Somare of the National Alliance Party (NAP) to form a Government. The new Parliament voted by (86 votes to 22) to re-elect Sir Michael as the Prime Minister on 13 August 2007.

RUSSIA

New Prime Minister: On 12 September 2007, President Mr. Vladimir Putin accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Mr. Mikhail Fradkov and appointed Mr. Viktor Zubkov as the new Prime Minister.

SIERRA LEONE

Legislative Elections: The elections to the 112-seat National Assembly (the Unicameral Legislature) were held on 11 August 2007. The party position following the elections is as follows: All People's Congress: 59; Sierra Leone People's Party: 43; and People's Movement for Democratic Change: 10.

New President: On 8 September 2007, Mr. Ernest Bai Koroma was elected as the country's new President and was sworn in on 17 September 2007.

New Speaker: On 25 September 2007, Mr. Abel Strong was elected as the new Speaker of the National Assembly.

ST LUCIA

Death of Prime Minister: On 7 September 2007, Prime Minister Sir John Compton died at Castries (the capital). He was being hospitalized after suffering a series of mild strokes in late April this year.

New Prime Minister: Mr. Stephenson King, who had been acting as

the Prime Minister since 1 May 2007, was inaugurated as Compton's replacement during a ceremony held at Government House on 9 September 2007.

TURKEY

Legislative Elections: In the elections to 550-seat Grand National Assembly (GNA—the Unicameral Legislature) held on 22 July 2007, Prime Minister Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling Islamist Justice and Development Party (AKP) won 341 seats. The party position in respect of other parties following the elections is as follows: Republican People's Party: 112; Nationalist Action Party: 70; and Independents: 27.

New Speaker: On 9 August 2007, Mr. Koksal Toptan was elected as the Speaker of the GNA.

New President: On 28 August 2007, Mr. Abdullah Gul was elected as the new President.

11

DOCUMENTS OF CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY INTEREST

As per the provisions of article 341 of the Constitution, the list of Scheduled Castes was first notified in 1950 and this list has been modified from time to time. Various State Governments had submitted requests for revision in the list, such as, inclusion of new communities, inclusion of synonymous communities, imposing area restrictions and other modifications of certain existing entries. These requests were processed in accordance with the modalities approved by the Union Government on 15 June 1999 and accordingly modified on 25 June 2002. After consultation with the concerned State Governments, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, the list of the Scheduled Castes in respect of seventeen communities for the States of Haryana, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab and Chhattisgarh were proposed to be amended.

The amendments proposed in the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007 broadly fall under the following categories, namely: (i) inclusion of new castes based on social, educational and economic backwardness; (ii) inclusion of synonymous communities in respect of a caste in the existing list; and (iii) modifications or imposition of area restrictions in the existing entries. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007 which sought to achieve the above-mentioned objectives was passed by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 14 May and 14 August 2007, respectively. It was assented to by the President on 29 August 2007. The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha as "The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2006". The Short title of the Bill was changed by the Lok Sabha through an amendment to clause 1.

We reproduce here the text of the above Act.

—Editor

THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2007

An Act further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Fifty-eighth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. *Short title:* This Act may be called the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Act, 2007.

2. *Amendment of the Schedule:* In the Schedule to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950,—

(*a*) in PART V.—*Haryana*,—

(*i*) for entry 5, substitute—

"5. Batwal, Barwala";

(*ii*) for entry 24, substitute—

"24. Megh, Meghwal";

(*b*) in PART VIII.—*Kerala*, for entry 61, substitute—

"61. Thandan (excluding Ezhuvas and Thiyyas who are known as Thandan, in the erstwhile Cochin and Malabar areas) and (Carpenters who are known as Thachan, in the erstwhile Cochin and Travancore State)";

(*c*) in PART IX.—*Madhya Pradesh*, for entry 2, substitute—

"2. Bagri, Bagdi (excluding Rajput, Thakur sub-castes among Bagri, Bagdi)";

(*d*) in PART X—*Maharashtra*,—

(*i*) for entry 8, substitute—

"8. Basor, Burud, Bansor, Bansodi, Basod";

(*ii*) for entries 11 and 12, substitute—

"11. Bhambi, Bhambhi, Asadaru, Asodi, Chamadia, Chamar, Chamari, Chambhar, Chamgar, Haralayya, Harali, Khalpa, Machigar, Mochigar, Madar, Madig, Mochi, Telegu Mochi, Kamati Mochi, Ranigar, Rohidas, Nona, Ramnami, Rohit, Samgar, Samagara, Satnami, Surjyabanshi, Surjyaramnami, Charmakar, Pardeshi Chamar;

12. Bhangi, Mehtar, Olgana, Rukhi, Malkana, Halalkhor, Lalbegi, Balmiki, Korar, Zadmalli, Hela";

(*e*) in PART XIII.—*Orissa*,—

(*i*) for entry 19, substitute—

"19. Chamar, Chamara, Chamar-Ravidas, Chamar-Rohidas, Mochi, Muchi, Satnami";

(*ii*) for entry 42, substitute—

"42. Kandra, Kandara, Kadama, Kuduma, Kodma, Kodama";

(*f*) in PART XIV.—*Punjab*, after entry 38, insert—

"39. Mahatma, Rai Sikh";

(*g*) in PART XXIII.—*Chhattisgarh*, after entry 43, insert—

"44. Turi".

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SESSIONAL REVIEW

FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

ELEVENTH SESSION

The Eleventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha commenced on 10 August 2007 and was adjourned *sine die* on 10 September 2007. The House was prorogued on 11 September 2007. In all, the House sat for 17 days.

A résumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the period from 10 August to 10 September 2007 is given below:

A. DISCUSSIONS / STATEMENTS

Statement by the Prime Minister regarding Civil Nuclear Energy Cooperation with the United States: Making a Statement in this regard in the House on 13 August 2007, the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh said that the Government of India had reached an Agreement with the Government of the United States of America on the text of the bilateral Agreement on Cooperation for Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. He said that the Government had kept the Parliament fully in the picture at various stages of the negotiations. It had never shied away from a full discussion in Parliament on this important issue. He himself had made statements on several previous occasions. After the conclusion of the Agreement, the Government had also briefed many of the parties represented in Parliament on the details of the Agreement.

The Prime Minister said that the Agreement was about the civil nuclear energy cooperation. The Government had negotiated the Agreement as an equal partner and also ensured that the autonomy of the country's strategic programme was fully maintained, and that Dr. Homi Bhabha's long-term vision remained its guiding principle.

The Prime Minister drew the attention of the House to some of the features of the Agreement in some detail. He stated that the concept of full civil nuclear cooperation had been clearly enshrined in the Agreement. The Agreement stipulated that such cooperation would

include nuclear reactors and aspects of the associated nuclear fuel cycle, including technology transfer on industrial or commercial scale. It would also include the development of a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply over the lifetime of the reactors. A significant aspect of the Agreement was India's right to reprocess spent fuel of US origin that had been secured upfront. India would establish a new national reprocessing facility dedicated to reprocessing foreign nuclear material under IAEA safeguards. India and the US would mutually agree on arrangements and procedures under which such reprocessing would take place in the new facility. The principle of reciprocity, which was integral to the July 2005 Statement, had been fully safeguarded in the Agreement. There was no change in India's position that it would accept only IAEA safeguards on its civilian nuclear facilities. This would also be done in a phased manner, as identified for that purpose in the Separation Plan, and only when all international restrictions on nuclear trade with India had been lifted. India would not take any irreversible steps with the IAEA prior to this.

The Prime Minister said that the Agreement emphasized the desire of both the countries to cooperate extensively in the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as a means of achieving energy security on a stable, reliable and predictable basis. It further confirmed that US cooperation with India was a permanent one. There was no provision that stated that US cooperation with India would be subject to an annual certification process. The Agreement made specific references to India and the United States as States possessing advanced nuclear technology, both parties having the same benefits and advantages, both committed to preventing proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. As agreed in the March Separation Plan, India had accepted only IAEA safeguards that would be reflected in an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. India had not consented to any provision that mandated scrutiny of its nuclear weapons programme or any unsafeguarded nuclear facilities. India and the United States had agreed that the implementation of the Agreement would not hinder or otherwise interfere with India's nuclear activities including military nuclear facilities. Nothing in the Agreement would impinge on India's strategic programme, her three-stage nuclear power programme or ability to conduct advanced Research and Development. The Agreement envisaged, in consonance with the March 2006 Separation Plan, US support for an Indian effort to develop a strategic reserve of nuclear fuel to guard against any disruption of supply for the lifetime of India's reactors. The Agreement also provided for non-hindrance and non-interference in India's activities involving the use of nuclear material, non-nuclear material, equipment,

components, information or technology and military nuclear facilities produced, acquired or developed independently for its own purposes.

The Prime Minister informed that an elaborate multi-layered consultation process had been included with regard to any future events that might be cited as a reason by either Party to seek cessation of cooperation or termination of the Agreement. Both Parties had agreed to take a number of factors into account in their consultations so that the scope for unilateral action was reduced. Cessation of cooperation could be sought by the US only if it was prepared to take the extreme step of termination of the Agreement. India's right to take "corrective measures" would be maintained even after the termination of the Agreement. In case of termination of the Agreement and cessation of cooperation by either Party, each had the right to seek return of the nuclear material and equipment supplied by it to the other. However, before the right of return was exercised, the Agreement committed that the Parties need to consult and to take into account specific factors such as national security, ongoing contracts and projects, compensation at market value, physical protection and environmental issues. The Agreement stipulated that both the parties recognized that exercising the right of return would have profound implications and consequences for their relations.

Some of the significant and innovative features of the Agreement was the specific mention of the right to run foreign supplied reactors 'without interruption' and to take 'corrective measures' in the event of fuel supply disruption. This had been made possible by crafting the provisions in a manner that provided for explicit linkages and interlocking of rights and commitments contained in the Agreement. The Agreement did not in any way affect India's right to undertake future nuclear tests, if it was necessary in India's national interest. There was nothing in the Agreement that would tie the hands of a future Government or legally constrain its options to protect India's security and defence needs.

The Agreement for cooperation between India and the US was for peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Its genesis was the shared perception between India and the US that both countries need to address their energy challenges, and address them in a manner that was sensitive to concerns about the environment. For India, it was critically important to maintain its current GDP growth rate of 8 to 10 per cent per annum if her goal of eradicating poverty was to be achieved. The energy implications of the growth rate over the next couple of decades were enormous. Even if India were to exploit all her known resources of coal, oil, gas and hydropower, it would still be confronted with a yawning

demand and supply gap. India must, in the meanwhile, explore and exploit every possible source of energy. Nuclear energy was a logical choice for India. India intended to carry forward her cooperation with other countries in civil nuclear energy, in particular, with major nuclear suppliers like Russia and France.

India already had a comprehensive nuclear infrastructure and corps of skilled and technically qualified manpower in the sector. It made sense for her to leverage the valuable asset. India's target for the year 2020 was 20,000 MW of nuclear power generation. However, if international cooperation once again became available, India could hope to double the target. On the basis of the Indo-US bilateral Agreement and the finalisation of an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, which was being taken up shortly, the Nuclear Suppliers Group was expected to adapt its guidelines to enable international commerce with India in civil nuclear energy and all dual use technologies associated with it. This would be the beginning of the end of the technology-denial regimes against India that had been in existence for over three decades.

The Prime Minister said that questions had been raised about the Government's commitment to an independent foreign policy. In this regard, he said that he had clearly spelt out the Government's position in his statements to Parliament in March and August 2006. He had specially mentioned that the pursuit of a foreign policy that was independent in its judgment was a legacy of the Founding Fathers and an abiding commitment of the Government. India was too large and too important a country to have the independence of its foreign policy taken away by any power. Today, India stood on the world stage as an influential and respected member of the international community. There was no question that India would ever compromise, in any manner, her independent foreign policy. India's commitment to universal, non-discriminatory and total elimination of nuclear weapons remained undiminished. It was the vision of a world, free of nuclear weapons which Shri Rajiv Gandhi put before the UN in 1988 and which still had universal resonance.

India remained committed to a voluntary, unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing and to negotiate a Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty or FMCT in the Conference on Disarmament. India was willing to join only a non-discriminatory, multilaterally negotiated, and internationally verifiable FMCT, subject to meeting the national security interests. Despite changes in the Government and changes in political leadership India had always tempered the exercise of its strategic autonomy with a

sense of global responsibility and with a commitment to the ideals of general and complete disarmament, including global nuclear disarmament. As a responsible nuclear power, India would not be the source of proliferation of sensitive technologies. India would work together with the international community to advance the common objective of non-proliferation.

The Prime Minister said that there were still other landmarks to cross before the goal of India joining the international mainstream as a full and equal partner becomes a reality. India had to finalise an India-specific Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA. Thereafter, the Nuclear Suppliers Group had to agree, by consensus, to adapt its guidelines; to enable nuclear commerce with India; and to dismantle the restrictions on the transfer of dual use technologies and items to India. The US Administration was to secure the requisite approval from the US Congress. The completion of these next steps would mark the practical realization of the initiative. He said that this historic initiative had received the steadfast support of President Bush and senior members of his Administration. The strengthening and enhancement of the bilateral relations was an objective that had received his unstinted personal support and commitment.

Concluding the Statement, the Prime Minister said that India had achieved an Agreement that was good for her, and good for the world. He wanted that history and posterity should judge the value of what the Government had done through the Agreement. In days to come it would be seen that it was not just the United States but nations across the world that wished to arrive at a new equilibrium in their relations with India. The Agreement with the United States would open new doors in capitals across the world. It was yet another step in India's journey to regain her due place in global councils. When future generations look back, they would acknowledge the significance of the historic deal.

Statement by the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs regarding abolition of Emigration Check Requirement Suspension (ECRS) System: Making a statement in this regard in the House on 6 September 2007, the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs, Shri Vayalar Ravi said that he wanted to give a statement regarding an important reform measure under the Emigration Act that he proposed to implement for the benefit of a large number of poor people. He said that under the Emigration Act, 1983 a person holding a passport as Emigration Check Required (ECR) was required to obtain emigration clearance from the Protector of Emigrants (POE) before leaving the country for overseas employment. This was a statutory requirement. The Emigration Act did not cover

ECR passport holders who travel overseas for visits other than for employment. However, for the last two decades administrative instructions had been in force requiring them to obtain Emigration Clearance Requirement Suspension or what was commonly referred to as ECRS. The ECRS system had no statutory basis. No other country has imposed such restrictions on International travel. The ECRS system had led to considerable inconvenience and harassment to passengers; it had resulted in corruption in POE offices and a nexus between unscrupulous recruiting agents and middlemen resulting in the exploitation of a large number of poor people. Last year over 5.5 lakh people who travelled overseas for purposes other than employment had to obtain ECRS.

The Minister said that the ECRS system, which had no statutory basis was retrograde. It levied a form of tax, which was the ECRS fee on a poor person apart from resulting in corruption. Though it was introduced with a good intention to prevent misuse of visit visa for employment purposes, it had not achieved its objective. The Ministry, therefore, critically examined this matter and placed a proposal for abolition of ECRS before the Committee of Secretaries (COS), chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The COS in its meeting held on 20 August 2007 had approved the proposal. Before giving effect to the abolition of the ECRS system, the Minister said that he wished to share with the House the merits of this important reform measure. First and foremost, he said that it would save over six lakh poor passengers from inconvenience and harassment. As a result of the abolition of the ECRS, all ECR Passport holders would be saved from incurring unnecessary expenditure estimated annually at about Rs.600 crore. Secondly, the uneducated ECR passport holder did not know the distinction between emigration clearance, which was mandatory for employment overseas, and ECRS, which was only for visits abroad. This ignorance was often exploited to send them abroad for employment on visit visas. The poor worker did not know that the agent had only arranged a visit visa that did not entitle him to work abroad. By abolishing ECRS this ambiguity would be removed. To ensure that the data on ECR passport holders going abroad on visit visa was captured, the Government had requested the Ministry of Home Affairs to modify the departure and arrival cards suitably.

The Minister said that he was grateful for the opportunity to share with the members the important Emigration reform that it would be implementing from 1 October 2007.

Discussion under rule 193 regarding situation arising out of floods

in various parts of the country. A discussion took place in this regard in the House on 14, 16, 20, 24, 29 and 30 August 2007. Initiating the discussion on 14 August 2007, Shri Ananth Kumar of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that the summer rainfall in the western and northern parts of India was 25 per cent more than usual in the current year. The whole country was reeling under severe flood situation. It had affected Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Assam and the North-East. He said that 192 districts in more than 22 States were affected and more than 27,472 villages were totally washed away. Nearly 22 lakh hectares of cropped land were destroyed; over 1,483 persons lost their lives; and more than 6.40 lakh houses were damaged.

Shri Ananth Kumar said that this was the worst-ever flood situation in India in living memory and urged the Prime Minister to visit the flood ravaged States. Mentioning that international experts had said that the conditions that promote serious flooding would become much more frequent, he suggested that the Union Government should come out with more serious steps to tackle the flood situation. He added that the recommendations of the task force on inter-linking of rivers should be implemented in a time bound manner. This was the only permanent solution for flood situation in the country.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Prabhunath Singh (Janata Dal-United) said that the Government of Bihar had actively mobilised itself in extending a helping hand to the flood victims. Millions of people had been rescued from the flood affected areas and placed under the make-shift shelters, which provided them food, clothing, medicines, etc. Despite the arrangements made by the State Government, the agony of the flood stricken was unremitting. In these circumstances, he suggested

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Hannan Mollah, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Mohan Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Anant Gudhe, Yogi Aditya Nath, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Ram Chandra Paswan, Kiren Rijiju, Sita Ram Singh, Anil Basu, Madhusudan Mistry, Tapir Gao, Shailendra Kumar, Bhubneshwar Prasad Mehta, Brahmananda Panda, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', M. Shivanna, Nikhil Kumar, Prabodh Panda, Mukeem Mohammad, Bikram Kesari Deo, Jual Oram, Manjunath Kunnur, Munshi Ram, Adhir Chowdhury, Suresh Kurup, Prahlad Joshi, Ram Kripal Yadav, Anwar Hussain, Narayan Chandra Borkataky, Suraj Singh, Hansraj Gangaramji Ahir, Suresh Angadi, Alok Kumar Mehta, Raghuraj Singh Shakya, Devwrat Singh, Francis Fanthome, Harikewal Prasad, Avinash Rai Khanna, Anirudh Prasad *alias* Sadhu Yadav, Vijoy Krishna, V.K. Thummar, Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma, Suresh Waghmare, K.S. Manoj, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Ch. Lal Singh, Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam, Smt. P. Jaya Prada Nahata, Smt. P. Satheedevi, Smt. Jhansi Lakshmi Botcha, Smt. Pratibha Singh, Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh and Smt. C.S. Sujatha

that the Central Government should find out a permanent solution to the problem.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that Orissa had been ravaged by recurring floods, drought and cyclones during the past several years. Its economic development had come to a standstill. He, therefore, requested the Central Government to come forward to help and stand with the people of the State of Orissa.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) said that the flood situation in the country was a recurring phenomenon and suggested that the Government need to take permanent measures by getting even the assistance of the international community so that the country was saved from the ravages of floods.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that by inter-linking of rivers, the country could avoid both floods and drought and also provide employment to many people in the country.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Water Resources, Prof. Saifuddin Soz asserted that inter-linking of rivers should be given priority. It was a State subject and the States had to agree among themselves. He said that five links were in very sharp focus currently *viz.* Ken-Betwa, Parbati-Kalisindh-Chambal, Narmada Pat-Tapi, Daman-Ganga-Painjal and Pollavaram-Krishna. Regarding cooperation with neighbouring countries in flood mitigation, he said that India had been actively engaged in joint efforts with Nepal, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

Referring to the steps taken under the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government, the Minister said that some recommendations were made in respect of the States of Bihar and West Bengal in view of the great loss of lives and property there. The Ministry took pains to implement those recommendations. The Minister said that the Government was also proposing a National Flood Management Commission as a long-term measure. It would examine the needs throughout the country in respect of drainage and embankments and would help the State Governments in preparation of master plans and wherever necessary, funding would be made available, he added.

Replying to the discussion on 30 August 2007, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil thanked the members who participated in the debate for their good suggestions. He said that the Government had come out with a booklet regarding the relief extended during the floods in the country which had been circulated to all the members. The booklet gave information about the flood situation in different States in

the country, about the funding, relief and about the steps which could be taken to give more relief to the people who were suffering.

Regarding Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), National Contingency Calamity Fund (NCCF) and the plan assistance, the Minister informed the members that the Government of India has set aside Rs. 21,000 crore for providing CRF to the States in five years time. The fund was given to the State Governments in two instalments. The Calamity Relief was an immediate relief which had to immediately reach the people to give them relief. This was not rebuilding or rehabilitating the people. Further, when initially the Fund was made available to the Government of India and to the State Governments, it was felt that the amount was not sufficient and more money should be given. That was why the NCCF was brought into existence.

The Minister said that the Government had passed the Disaster Management Act in recent years. The Act dealt with floods, cyclone, earthquake and with many other kinds of calamities. The Act provided for a National Disaster Management Authority at the national level which was expected to make policies and plans and prepare schemes for dealing with these calamities. Moreover, the Act also provided for the establishment of a State Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of the State to prepare the plans for their own State. The Act further provided that at the District level there should be a District Disaster Management Authority under the Chairmanship of the District Collector and at the fourth level, there was to be a Local Disaster Management Authority.

The Minister, however, said that some States had not yet constituted the State Disaster Management Authority. He requested the members to ensure that these authorities were created in their States and Districts. Regarding inter-linking of rivers and construction of dams, the Minister said that there would be no difficulty in allowing the States to do it and if they prepared the plan, the Ministry of Irrigation would definitely look into it and the permission could be given. He said that India was strong enough to cope with these kinds of difficulties and what was required was a clear understanding. The Government of India was in touch with every State and there was absolutely no difficulty.

Adjournment Motion regarding failure of the Government to contain terrorist violence in the country as was evidenced by a series of recent events, the latest being twin blasts in Hyderabad in which 42 innocent citizens lost their lives and 50 were injured: Moving the Adjournment Motion in the House on 29 August 2007, Shri Prabhunath Singh of Janata Dal (United) said that the main objective of the Adjournment

Motion was to invite attention towards the fact that the country was fighting continuously for its external security but simultaneously its internal security had also been endangered. Almost all parts of the country were affected by Maoist or naxalite incidents and sometimes by other incidents of the same nature. The whole country was shaken by the incident of bomb blasts in Hyderabad on 25 August 2007. Whenever such incidents took place, not only that place but the whole country got affected. With regard to the present incident, he stated that the Prime Minister had reportedly said that a permanent fund might be set up for the victims of terrorism. From his statement, it appeared that such incidents could not be stopped and the only remedy left was that the Government should go on announcing compensations for the victims. He strongly condemned the statement and wanted that the Home Minister should clarify in his reply as to what arrangements were made in Hyderabad in order to avoid such incidents. He said that the incidents of terrorism, extremism and naxalite violence were posing a threat to the internal security of the country. Under these circumstances, he said that a strong law was needed and suggested that a separate force should be constituted towards combating terrorism and naxalism.

Supporting the Adjournment Motion, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri L.K. Advani (BJP) said that there were at least ten major terrorist incidents in different parts of India excluding Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years. In these ten terrorist operations, the failure of the Government to prevent them, to arrest the terrorists by making proper investigation and to bring them to book through the judicial system, was quite conspicuous. Alleging that the Government was only concerned about paying compensation to the aggrieved, he said that it should be more concerned as to how it could strengthen the intelligence system so that such incidents might not recur. He said that the previous Government had taken all the safeguards in POTA as suggested by the Supreme Court. Had there been no POTA in place, death sentence would not have been awarded to Mohammad Afzal. But, it was the present Government which was saving him. He wanted that no one should talk of minority or majority while dealing with terrorism, nor should it be politicized. Terrorism could be combated if these two things were kept in mind, he added.

Participating in the discussion*, the Minister of Parliamentary

* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Mohammad Salim, Mohan Singh, Devendra Prasad Yadav, Chandrakant Khaire, A. Krishnaswamy, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Nikhil Kumar, Madhu Goud Yaskhi, Syed Shahnawaz Hussain, Ram Kripal Yadav, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and Smt. Rupatai Diliprao Nilangekar Patil

Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting, Shri Priyaranjan Dasmunsi congratulated the people of Hyderabad who maintained the unity of the society and the people in the face of such a grave provocation. At this critical juncture, he said that a consensus should be built on how to combat terrorists and isolate them. He wanted that the House should not only condemn these activities, but also give constructive suggestions as to how the existing system could be further strengthened.

Shri K. Yerrannaidu (TDP) said that the Intelligence Bureau of the Government of India had informed the State Governments that such an incident might happen at any time in any metropolitan city. Despite that, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had not taken any necessary steps to prevent the incident. He alleged that the Chief Minister had failed to protect the life and property of the citizens living in the State and wanted that he should not continue in office. This should apply to all the States.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that cross border terrorism was the main reason for the spread of terrorism in the country. It had seriously jeopardized India's sovereignty and progress. Therefore, the nation must prepare itself for a war against terrorism.

Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) condemned the twin blasts in Hyderabad and said that these kinds of attacks challenged the very fabric of the democratic society. He, therefore, urged all the political parties to put their heads together and find out an amicable solution to the problem.

Shri Subrata Bose (AIFB) suggested that the Intelligence Services should be strengthened so that when any Intelligence reports come, it should be taken seriously and acted upon.

Shri Ramdas Athawale (RPI-A) strongly condemned the terrorists acts of violence in Hyderabad and requested that members should not indulge in politics over these terrorists attacks.

Intervening in the discussion, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj V. Patil said that the discussion gave an opportunity to everyone to jointly consider as to what steps could be taken to control that kind of a situation. Referring to the incidents in Hyderabad, he said that the Government of Andhra Pradesh was very alert and careful, yet the incidents had taken place. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh announced that Rs.5 lakh would be given for each deceased person. He said that the task of controlling the terrorist activities in the country had

to be taken by the State Governments with the cooperation of the Union Government. Regarding the measures taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges, the Minister said that strengthening the special branches of State Police was the first important measure. The Government had been saying that intelligence was the only weapon to counter terrorism. Then, followed the management of the borders. In this regard, he said that except for the Line of Control, the entire international border of the country was manned by the paramilitary forces. Apart from these, there were issues like new raisings and modernisation of the Central Para Military Forces; international cooperation, in which India entered into agreements with nearly 30 countries; and police reforms. The Central Government had increased its number of policemen. As far as the question of I.B. was concerned, he said that it was necessary to understand that I.B. was not an agency to take any action; it was an agency which gave information only.

Replying to the discussion, Shri Prabhunath Singh wanted to know about whose responsibility it was to step up the number of police personnel with the increase in population. In the previous debate, he said that the Minister had hinted about the threat of terrorism looming large from all side, be it land, air or sea. But in today's reply he had not mentioned what action he was going to take to curb such threat and provide security to the people of the country. The training given by the Government to the police was not sufficient to help them curb such incidents, though they were capable. He wanted to know whether the Government proposed to give them training abroad and check such incidents.

The motion was negatived.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Statutory Resolution regarding Disapproval of the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 and *the State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007**: On 20 August 2007, Shri Ramji Lal Suman of the Samajwadi Party moved the Statutory Resolution that the House disapproved the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 promulgated by the President on 21 June 2007. Moving the Motion, he said that he failed to understand as to how this Ordinance was related with the development of the country as well as the common people. The

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 16 August 2007

Government tried to legalize its tendency of raising loans and with the help of this, the Government tried to raise Rs.40 thousand crore from the market to purchase approximately 60 per cent of RBI's shares for the State Bank of India. This was a dangerous trend.

Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal said that the Bill further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration. He said that while deliberating on the issue of regulation and supervision, the Committee on Banking Sector Reforms had observed that it was inconsistent with the principles of effective supervision that the regulator was also an owner of the bank. This would require the RBI to divest its holding in banks and financial institutions. The Committee was of the view that RBI should not own the institutions it regulates. Therefore, the ownership of financing institutions could ideally be delinked from RBI through the transfer of such ownership to the Government.

The Minister said that the RBI accepted these recommendations for transfer of its shareholding in SBI to the Central Government. On 10 October 2005, RBI furnished the details of legislative changes required for disinvestment of RBI's shareholding in SBI. On 1 March 2006, RBI sent draft legislation for making necessary amendments in the SBI Act, 1955 for transfer of its shareholding in SBI to the Government. In February 2007, the Government approved the proposal for transfer of ownership of shareholding of RBI, in the SBI, to the Central Government. The transaction involved transfer of the entire equity held by RBI in the SBI, that is 31,43,39,200 shares comprising 59.73 per cent of the total equity shares. In the current year's budget a sum of Rs.40,000 crore was provided for this purpose.

In view of the large amount involved, the Minister said that it was decided to complete the transaction before 30 June 2007, that is, the date of closure of the annual account of the Reserve Bank of India. Hence, it became necessary to carry out urgently the required amendments in the SBI Act, 1955. As both the Houses of Parliament were not in Session, the State Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007 was promulgated on 21 June 2007 which came into force on 29 June 2007. The transfer of shares from the RBI to Central Government before 30 June 2007 had enabled the RBI to transfer all its profits due to this transfer as a part of the annual transfer of surplus to the Central Government. The said Ordinance had amended the SBI Act, 1955 to enable the transfer of RBI's shareholding in SBI to Central Government. The amendments were confined only to substituting the words "Central

Government" / "Government" for "Reserve Bank" / "Bank". The Bill sought to replace the aforesaid Ordinance.

Participating in the discussion*, Prof. M. Ramadass (PMK) supported the Bill and said that the Bill would serve two important purposes. One, it would put an end to the conflict that existed in the Reserve Bank of India. Secondly, there was not much of revenue implication as far as this move was concerned. Rs. 35,531.33 crore was given to the Reserve Bank of India. This was a very simple Bill through which they were bringing the transfer of ownership from one hand to another. It was not going to affect any of the functions of the Bank. Now, Government of India would become the owner of the State Bank of India, and it would be able to implement its social policy.

Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy (BJD) said that by amending Sections 3, 5, 10, 18, 19, 24 and 36 and substituting "Central Government" for the word "Reserve Bank", the Government was intending to take away SBI from the control, authority and directions of the Reserve Bank. He alleged that this measure of the Government was nothing but yielding to the pressures of corporates and big business houses.

Replying to the discussion, the Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the intention to acquire RBI's shareholding was announced in the Budget. It was a transparent upfront announcement made in the Budget which was approved by the House. Then, the Government also provided Rs.40,000 crore in the Budget which the House voted when it voted the Appropriation Bill. The Government needed to accumulate approximately Rs.40,000 crore without interfering with the regular borrowing programme and upsetting the market from which it had to borrow. Once the Government were confident that this capital had been built up, it promulgated the Ordinance on 21 June and said that it would complete the transaction by 29 June. The Government had actually spent only Rs.35,531 crore. The price of each share was calculated according to SEBI guidelines. The Bill simply replaced the words 'Reserve Bank of India' by 'Government of India'. As far as the NABARD and the NHB were concerned, he said that both were unlisted companies. The Government would require a certain amount of money to take over these two shareholdings. It intended to do so in the current

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* Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Lakshman Singh, K.S. Rao, Sudhangshu Seal, Shailendra Kumar, Ganesh Prasad Singh, Bhartruhari Mahtab, Prabodh Panda, Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan', Adhir Chowdhury, Varkala Radhakrishnan, Kharabela Swain, Vijayendra Pal Singh and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat

year and complete the same by June 2008. But since they were unlisted companies, there was no great urgency to do that immediately. He said that the SBI had improved its position since the UPA Government came into office, which was stronger than what it was three years ago or even one year ago.

The Resolution was negatived and the Bill was passed.

*The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007**: On 30 August 2007, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramadoss moved the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 was enacted mainly for taking effective steps to discourage the use of tobacco and tobacco products so as to protect the public health.

As per sub-section (1) of section 7 of the said Act, no person shall, directly or indirectly, produce, supply or distribute cigarette or any other tobacco products unless every package of cigarettes or any other tobacco products produced, supplied or distributed by him bears thereon, or on its label, the specified health warning including a pictorial depiction of skull and cross bones and such other warning as may be prescribed by the rules made by the Central Government under the Act.

It was felt that taking into account the religious sentiments expressed by certain sections of society against the depiction of skull and cross bones, the pictorial warning of skull and cross bones on the packets of tobacco products might be made optional rather than mandatory.

Participating in the discussion**, Shri Basudeb Acharia of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) suggested that instead of skull and cross bones, some other pictures or written warning should be depicted on the packet so that people who chew tobacco or who smoke *beedi* should know and understand the harm by taking it and this should also be incorporated in the Bill itself. He demanded that, along with amendment of the Bill, the rules should also be accordingly amended so that the purpose of the amending section 7 of the Act was fulfilled.

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* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20 August 2007

** Others who participated in the discussion were: Sarvashri Shyama Charan Gupta, Ram Kripal Yadav, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, Chaudhary Lal Singh, Smt. Sumitra Mahajan, Smt. Archana Nayak and Smt. Tejaswini Seeramesh

On 6 September 2007, the Bill was passed.

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 6 September 2007, the Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shri Prem Chand Gupta said that the Government had enacted the Competition Act in 2002 so that the Indian market might be geared to face competition from within the country and outside. The Act provided for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition. However, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) could not be made fully functional till date due to filing of a writ petition before the Supreme Court. While delivering its judgment in January 2005, the Supreme Court closed the writ petition leaving it to the Government to make amendments to the Act as appropriate to address the legal issues as had been brought up during the proceedings on the Writ Petition. Therefore, now keeping in view the developments and the new ideas that had come to the notice of the Government, these amendments were proposed so that the Competition Act could be implemented in the country.

The Bill, as amended, was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Eleventh Session of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, in all 21,562 notices of questions (15,027 Starred, 6,500 Unstarred and 35 Short Notice Questions) were received. Out of these, 380 notices were admitted as Starred, 3,776 as Unstarred and one was admitted as Short Notice Question.

On 10 August 2007, since the House adjourned for the day after obituary references, Starred Questions could not be called for oral answer. Due to interruptions in the House on 13, 21, 22 and 31 August; 5, 6, 7 and 10 September 2007, Starred Questions were not called for oral answer. Replies to Starred Questions listed for the day were treated as Unstarred and their answers, together with the answers to Unstarrred Questions, were printed in the official report for those days.

The sittings of Lok Sabha fixed for 27 August and 3 September 2007 were cancelled as per the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee at its sittings held on 21 and 30 August 2007, respectively and agreed to by the House on 22 and 31 August 2007,

* The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 29 August 2007

respectively. Replies to both Starred and Unstarred questions listed for 27 August and 3 September 2007 were laid on the Table at the next sitting of the House, *i.e.*, 29 August and 5 September 2007, respectively.

With the consent of all Party Leaders, the Speaker, Lok Sabha adjourned the House *sine die* on 10 September 2007 instead of 14 September 2007 as scheduled earlier. Questions listed for 11, 12, 13 and 14 September were treated as lapsed.

Daily average of Questions in the list of Question: The average number of Starred Questions answered orally in the House during the Session was 1.84. The maximum number of Starred Questions answered orally on a day was 7 on 24 and 30 August 2007.

The average number of questions appearing in the Unstarred Questions list came to 164 per day against the prescribed limit of 230, the minimum being 123 Questions on 10 August 2007.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, 7 notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received during the Session. Out of those, only 1 notice was admitted but it was not discussed on the floor of the House.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the period, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister and sitting member; Shri Ajit Kumar Singh, sitting member; Sarvashri Krishna Chandra Halder, Chandrajeet Yadav, T. Nagaratnam, Bharat Singh Chowhan, Dilip Chakravarty, Sat Pal Kapur, T. Balakrishnaiah, Jagdish Prasad Mathur, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma, and Smt. Tarkeshwari Sinha, all former members.

Besides, references were also made to the loss of several lives and injuries to many in the bomb blasts that took place in Hyderabad on 25 August 2007; to a road mishap that took place on 7 September 2007 at Desuri-ka-Nall village in Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, resulting in the death of about 86 persons and injuries to many and regarding the collapse of a girder at a bridge construction site at Punjagutta junction in Hyderabad resulting in the death of about 10 persons.

Thereafter, members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

RAJYA SABHA

TWO HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH SESSION*

The Rajya Sabha, which met for its Two Hundred and Eleventh Session on 10 August 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 10 September 2007, and was then prorogued by the President on 11 September 2007. A resumé of some of the important discussions held and other business transacted during the Session is given below:

A. STATEMENTS / DISCUSSIONS

Statement regarding the successful launch of GSLV-F04 / INSAT-4CR: Making a Statement in the House on 5 September 2007, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Shri Prithviraj Chavan informed the members that the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle, GSLV-F04, had successfully launched the latest communication satellite, INSAT-4CR, on 2 September 2007 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. The Minister stated that the 2,140-kg. INSAT-4CR is the third satellite in the INSAT-4 series. The satellite carrying 12 high power Ku band transponders would augment INSAT capacity for Direct-To-Home (DTH) television and other communications services. He said that the Master Control Facility at Hassan in Karnataka had acquired signals from INSAT-4CR soon after it entered into orbit and the initial checks indicated normal health of the satellite. The orbit raising manoeuvres had commenced on 3 September 2007 and would continue from 5 to 7 September 2007 followed by the deployment of appendages, three axis stabilization, payload switching on and in-orbit tests. The INSAT-4CR would be operationalised by the end of September 2007, the Minister informed.

Statement regarding resident doctors' strike at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences: Making a Statement in the House on 30 August 2007, the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Anbumani Ramdoss stated that the resident doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi were on strike on the issue of delay in award of degrees to the successful students by the Institute. As per the procedure followed, every year Convocation of AIIMS is required to be held in the month of February when the degrees are awarded to

* Contributed by the Research and Library Section, Rajya Sabha Secretariat

the successful students. The degrees should bear the signature of the President, Director, Dean and the Registrar of AIIMS. The Minister stated that the Director, AIIMS, however, had not organized the Convocation for the last two years and as a special case, considering the requirement of original degrees for some concerned students, 54 MBBS degrees of 2005 were signed by the all concerned to be awarded to those students. Similarly, for the year 2006 also 49 MBBS degrees were forwarded to him by the Director, AIIMS on 20 August 2007 for his signature since he was the President, AIIMS. He found that the degrees so forwarded by the Institute were not signed by the Registrar, AIIMS, appointed by the Governing Body but were signed by one Dr. Sandeep Aggarwal. The degrees were, therefore, returned to the Director, AIIMS for rectifying the mistake at the earliest so that the degrees could be issued immediately.

The Minister informed that any degree signed by an unauthorized person would render the degree illegal and invalid and it was unfortunate that the resident doctors had resorted to strike without appreciating his concern for their future. The Minister further said that the Director, AIIMS had been instructed to take necessary steps to ensure that the strike was called off and the patient care services in the Institute were restored immediately. He had also been asked to convene the Convocation within a period of one month so that the pending degrees could be awarded to the students without any further delay.

Short Duration Discussion on heavy floods in various parts of the country and relief measures undertaken by the Government: A discussion in this regard took place in the House on 14, 23, 30 August and 6 September 2007. Initiating the discussion on 14 August 2007, Shri Kalraj Mishra of the Bharatiya Janata Party said that natural calamities such as floods, drought, earthquake, landslides in the hilly areas, etc. often affect the lives of common men and cause loss of crore of rupees and thousands of human lives. Among the countries worst affected by the floods were India, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Supporting his statement by statistics, he said that more than three crore people had been rendered homeless and more than three thousand lives had been lost in these four countries altogether. In India, the States of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were worst affected by the floods. Explaining the cause of heavy floods, Shri Mishra said that the rivers emerging from Nepal and passing through these States hit the dams with their high currents as a result of which dams collapse and the entire area gets submerged.

Suggesting some solutions to the problem of floods, he said that

one alternative was that straight dams should be erected to check the water flow, the second was that dynamic dams could be constructed and third alternative was that to check the damage caused due to floods, especially in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, some places may be raised high and the people settled at those places. He recalled that a proposal regarding the interlinking of rivers was also submitted by the previous Government which could also prove effective. He urged the Government to extend adequate help to the people affected by the flood in the States of Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Participating in the discussion*, Shri Dwijendra Nath Sharmah (INC) said that in the current year almost all the States had been affected by floods. Mentioning about Assam, he said that floods in Assam were a perennial problem and in the current flood twenty-six out of twenty-seven districts had been affected. He cited silting of rivers and deforestation in the hilly areas as the reasons for floods. Emphasizing the need for a permanent solution to the problem, Shri Sharmah said that a permanent fund was necessary for Assam by which immediate action could be taken with respect to flood relief. He urged the Government to look for a permanent solution for controlling the river Brahmaputra and its tributaries so that the people, the cultivators and the farmers could be saved from the devastating effects of floods.

Shri C. Perumal (AIADMK) suggested that a long term policy was required to be framed by the scientists, researchers, administrators and management experts to substantially minimize the loss of lives, crops and the property. He urged the Government to be more objective in the assessment of damage and provision of relief assistance while remaining guided by certain parameters. The actual cost of the damages calculated must be shared on 80:20 basis by the Centre and the States. It should also be made mandatory for all the States and the Centre to reserve five per cent of the budget for meeting such costs.

He urged the Government to enforce a National Scheme of Rain Water Harvesting structure in each and every existing and future dwelling unit all over the country. He further said that dedicated village guard forces must be raised to undertake the construction work of

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* Others who took part in the discussion were : Sarvashri Brij Bhushan Tiwari, Moinul Hassan, D. Raja, Suresh Bhardwaj, Gandhi Azad, Nand Kishore Yadav, Mahendra Sahni, Sanjay Raut, Tariq Anwar, Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, K.B. Shanappa, Ali Anwar, Mangani Lal Mandal, Bashistha Narain Singh, Harish Rawat, Rajniti Prasad, Rudra Narayan Pany, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Ms. Pramila Bohidar, Ms. Sushila Tiriya, Smt. Viplove Thakur and Smt. Prema Cariappa

special canal network to suck in the excess water from the rivers during rainy seasons. Moreover, habitations routinely inundated by rivers could be identified and the people could have two alternative habitats, one during the non-flood seasons and another, a very restricted makeshift arrangement for stay with rationed food, during flood seasons. A vital part of the Master Plan should have the prevention of flash floods as its key components, he added.

Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar (INC) said that the process of granting financial relief from the Centre to the States should be restructured with the objective of ensuring speedier and more transparent financial resources to the affected States. The process of forecasting of floods should be improved and the issue of interlinking of rivers be looked into. The States must focus on the issues of river bank encroachments, silting and erosion of soils, which contributed significantly to the floods. He urged the Government to launch a permanent long-term and sustainable strategy to protect the people from the annual occurrence of floods.

Replying to the debate on 6 September 2007, the Minister of Home Affairs, Shri Shivraj Patil said that the information about the flood situation, the relief provided, the foodgrains distributed and the funds and other equipments given to cope up with the difficulties faced by different States in the country had already been circulated.

B. LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 14 August 2007, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Meira Kumar said that as per the provisions of article 341 of the Constitution of India, the list of Scheduled Castes was first notified in 1950, which had been modified from time to time. A number of requests had been received from the State Governments for modification in the list, involving inclusion of new and synonymous communities, imposition of area restriction and also modification in the existing entries. The requests were processed in accordance with the modalities approved by the Government on 15 June 1999 and modified on 25 June 2002, after consultation with the concerned State Governments, the Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Castes. The proposed amendments in the said Bill envisaged the inclusion of new castes based on social,

* The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha, was laid on the Table on 15 May 2007.

educational and economic backwardness; inclusion of synonymous communities in respect of a caste in the existing list, and modifications or imposition of area restriction in the existing entries. She further informed that the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment for examination and report which had agreed with the Bill in its entirety. The Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 14 May 2007.

Replying to the debate*, the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Smt. Meira Kumar said that the Bill was not a Constitution Amendment Bill, but as the amendments were being made in a list included in the Constitution, the procedure for this had purposely been made complicated so that it could not be misused. The Minister informed that a high level Committee had been constituted to monitor untouchability and atrocities on Dalits. She said that the law has its own limitations and it could not change the mindset of the people. The Minister further stated that more than one thousand communities had been added to the list of Scheduled Castes and all the suggestions given by the members would be taken care of.

The motion for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2006:*** Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House on 30 August 2007, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandes said that the National Apprentice Scheme was started in the year 1959 on voluntary basis to prepare skilled manpower for industry by using training facilities available in the industry. The Apprenticeship Training Scheme was regulated by the enactment of the Apprentices Act, 1961 which envisaged for providing training to the school leavers as trade apprentices. It was amended in 1973 to include training of graduate and diploma engineers as graduate and technician apprentices. The Act was further amended in the years 1986 and 1997 to enlarge the scope of the Apprenticeship Training Scheme and to improve its performance both qualitatively and quantitatively.

The Minister informed that the seats in the Apprenticeship Training

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri Krishan Lal Balmiki, Tarini Kanta Roy, Amar Singh, D. Raja, Nandi Yellaiah, K.B. Shanappa, Gandhi Azad, Silvius Condpan, Ali Anwar, Tapan Kumar Sen, Dharam Pal Sabharwal, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Dr. Radhakant Nayak, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Prof. Ram Deo Bhandary, Smt. Brinda Karat and Smt. Sushma Swaraj

** The Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 19 May 2007

are reserved for youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes categories. The duration of the training period varies from six months to four years and stipend was to be paid to the apprentices per month. The 29th meeting of the Central Apprenticeship Council, held under the Chairmanship of the Minister of Labour, recommended: to provide reservation for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) under the Apprentices Act, 1961; to amend the Act for imparting related instructions by the employers instead of appropriate Government; and to enhance flexibility upto fifty per cent in the matter of engagement of apprentices in a trade provided that overall quota fixed for the establishment remains the same. These were the important amendments proposed through the Bill.

Replying to the debate,* the Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Oscar Fernandes said that the most important suggestions that had been put forth desired that due emphasis be given to the welfare of women and the physically handicapped and for enhancing the stipend being given to the apprentices.

The motion for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

*The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007***:* Moving the motion for consideration of the Bill on 10 September 2007, the Minister of Company Affairs, Shri Prem Chand Gupta said that the first anti-trust law enacted in the country was in the form of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, 1969. The thrust of the law was on the prevention of concentration of economic power through monopolistic, restrictive and unfair trade practices that might lead to unhealthy accumulation of economic power in an environment of scarce resources. However, the economic reforms in the last two decades had resulted in changes in the competitive environment of the country as well as in the international arena. The Minister said that the existing anti-trust regime was inadequate to squarely address the issues of competition and anti-competitive practices in the dynamically changing market place. He further said that this had led to the need for a new Competition Law along with the creation of a Competition Regulatory Body and accordingly, the Competition

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* Others who took part in the discussion were: Sarvashri G. Sanjeeva Reddy, Rudra Narayan Pany, Nand Kishore Yadav, K. Chandran Pillai, S. Anbalagan, Rajniti Prasad, Sharad Anantrao Joshi, Gandhi Azad, Tiruchi Siva, Tapan Kumar Sen, Harendra Singh Malik, Abdul Wahab Peevee, Mangani Lal Mandal, Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, Dr. M.S. Gill and Smt. N.P. Durga

** The Bill as passed by the Lok Sabha was laid on the Table on 7 September 2007

Act, 2002 was enacted. The Act, he said faced a legal challenge necessitating some amendments. The Competition Commission of India, he informed, would be functioning as an expert body, along with the Competition Appellate Tribunal which would hear appeals on the orders made by the Commission and also adjudicate on compensation claims, if any. A suitable arrangement had been proposed in the Bill so that the orders of the two bodies were properly implemented. Arrangements had also been proposed for the competition regulator to coordinate its work with other regulators through consultation. The Bill had been extensively discussed and debated in the Standing Committee, which had submitted its report in December 2006.

The motion for the consideration of the Bill, clauses, etc. were adopted and the Bill was passed.

C. QUESTION HOUR

During the Session, 8,038 notices of Questions (6,953 Starred and 1,085 Unstarred) were received. Out of these, 680 Questions were admitted as Starred and 2,913 Questions as Unstarred. The total number of notices of Questions received in Hindi was 1,881.

Daily average of Questions: For all the days, the list of Starred Questions contained 20 Questions each. On an average, 1.61 Questions were orally answered per sitting. The maximum number of Questions orally answered was five on 14 and 23 August 2007 and the minimum number of Questions orally answered was three on 20 August 2007.

The list of Unstarred Questions contained 135 Questions on 10 August 2007 and 150 Questions on 13 August 2007. On the rest of the days, it contained 155 Questions each.

Half-an-Hour Discussion: In all, fifteen notices of Half-an-Hour Discussion were received, but none was admitted.

Short Notice Questions: In all, seven Short Notice Questions were received. However, none was admitted.

D. OBITUARY REFERENCES

During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister and former member of the Rajya Sabha; and Sarvashri Shankarrao Bajirao Bobdey, Jagdish Prasad Mathur, Ashis Sen and Banarsi Das Gupta, all former members. Members stood in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased.

STATE LEGISLATURES

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fourth Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eighth Session on 17 July 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 19 July 2007. There were three sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, following two Bills were introduced, considered and passed by the House: (i) The Arunachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2007; and (ii) The Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (Act No. 2 of 1899) (in its application to the State of Arunachal Pradesh) (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Shri Sahib Singh Verma, Former Union Minister and former Chief Minister of Delhi; and Shri Rima Taipodia, former Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Twelfth Assam Legislative Assembly, commenced its Fifth Session on 6 August 2007. The House was adjourned *sine die* on 9 August 2007 and prorogued by the Governor. There were four sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, six Bills were introduced, discussed and passed by the House.

Financial business: On behalf of the Minister-in-charge of Finance, the Health and Family Welfare Minister presented the list of Supplementary Demands for Grants and Supplementary Appropriation for the year 2007-2008 and the said Supplementary Demands were voted and passed by the House on 8 August 2007. The Assam Appropriation (No. III) Bill was also passed by the House after consideration and discussion on the same day, *i.e.* on 8 August 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of 13 prominent persons.

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* Material contributed by the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Assam Legislative Assembly Secretariat

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Third Delhi Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 12 September 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 18 September 2007. There were 5 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, (i) The Delhi Fire Service Bill, 2007; (ii) The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Incredible India) Bed & Breakfast Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Bill, 2007; and (iii) The Indian Stamp (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2007 were considered and passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Shri S.L. Khurana, former Lt. Governor of Delhi; Shri Sahib Singh Verma, former Chief Minister of Delhi; Shri Vasdev Kaptan, former member of Delhi Legislative Assembly; and Shri Amar Chand Shubh, former Councillor of Delhi Metropolitan Council.

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Fifth Goa Legislative Assembly which commenced its Second Session on 16 July 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 30 July 2007. The Governor prorogued the House on 31 July 2007. There were 10 sittings in all.

Address by the Governor: The Governor of Goa, Shri S.C. Jamir addressed the House on 16 July 2007.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 17 July 2007, Shri Mauvin Heliodoro Godinho was elected the Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly.

Disqualification Petitions against two MLAs: The Speaker, Shri Pratapsingh Raoji Rane announced receipt of two disqualification petitions filed by Shri Chandrakant Kavlekar, MLA from Quepem Constituency against Smt. Victoria Fernandes and Shri Angelo Fernandes, MLA from Calangute Constituency against Sarvashri Ramkrishna Dhavalikar and Pandurang Dhavalikar under paragraphs 2(a) and 2(b) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India. The Speaker ordered

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* Material contributed by the Delhi Legislative Assembly Secretariat

** Material contributed by the Goa Legislative Assembly Secretariat

ad interim ex parte relief in terms of the prayer and restrained the Respondents from functioning as Members of the Legislative Assembly and/or from voting in the House.

Financial business: The General Discussion on the Budget for the year 2007-2008 was held for two days *i.e.*, 17 and 18 July 2007.

Out of the listed 80 Demands for Grants for the year 2007-2008, 3 Demands were discussed and 26 Demands were guillotined. Under rule 259(1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Goa Legislative Assembly the discussion on Demands for Grants was suspended from its operation and reduced to six days from the usual 15 days. 33 Cut Motions to the various Demands were moved in the House. All the Cut Motions were negatived. The Demands for Grants for 2007-2008 were put to vote and passed. The connected Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007 was introduced, considered and passed by the House on 30 July 2007.

Vote of Confidence: On 30 July 2007, with the entire Opposition boycotting the proceedings, Chief Minister Shri Digambar Kamat won a Vote of Confidence by voice vote in the State Legislative Assembly.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Sarvashri Sahib Singh Verma, former Union Minister and former Chief Minister of Delhi; Dilip Sardesai, Great Indian Test Cricketer of Goan Origin; Dattaram Wadekar, noted film Music Composer of yesteryears of Hindi Cine Films hailing from Goa; and Ulhas Buyao, a noted singer, lyricist, music composer, and stage artist, also hailing from Goa who had played a prominent role during the Opinion Poll held in 1967.

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Kerala Legislative Assembly commenced its Sixth Session on 4 September 2007 and was adjourned *sine die* on 20 September 2007. The Governor prorogued the House on 20 September 2007. There were 13 sittings in all.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Sarvashri T.O. Bava, and N.N. Pandarathil, both former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

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* Material contributed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly Secretariat

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Twelfth Session of the Twelfth Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly was commenced on 18 July 2007 and adjourned *sine die* on 1 August 2007. There were 9 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, nine Bills (including three Bills replacing the Ordinances) were introduced and passed by the House.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance Shri Raghavji presented the Statement of First Supplementary Expenditure for the year 2007-2008 on 24 July 2007. The Supplementary Demands were discussed and the Appropriation Bill for the same was passed by the House on 25 July 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Sarvashri Prakash Sonker, Minister of State of Madhya Pradesh; Dilip Bhatere, sitting member of the House; Sahib Singh Verma, former Union Minister and former Chief Minister of Delhi; Chandrajit Yadav, former Union Minister; Bharat Singh Chauhan, former member of Parliament; Narmada Prasad Shrivastava, Khalak Singh Nandwanshi, Anandilal, Hiralal Silawat, Dewan Chandrabhan Singh, Heera Ram Verma, Mehman Shah Uikey, Raghuwardayal Rasoiya, Hariram Singh Sarraf, all former members of the State Legislative Assembly.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

The Maharashtra Legislative Council, which commenced its Second Session of the year 2007 on 16 July 2007. The House was adjourned *sine die* and prorogued by the Governor on 2 August 2007. There were 12 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session (i) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (ii) The Mumbai Provincial Municipal Corporations, Nagpur City Corporation and Maharashtra Nagar Parishads, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007 were introduced, considered and passed by the House.

The following Bills as passed by the State Legislative Assembly were considered by the House; (i) The Bombay Village Panchayats

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* Material contributed by the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Secretariat
** Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Council Secretariat

and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) Criminal Procedure Code (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (v) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007.

The following Bills, as passed by the State Legislative Assembly, were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007; and (iii) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Financial business: The Minister of State for Finance, Shri Sunil Punjabrao Deshmukh, presented the Supplementary Statement of Expenditure for the year 2007-2008 to the House on 17 July 2007. The general discussion on the Supplementary Demands for the year 2007-2008 was held on 23 and 24 July 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Dr. J. Leon Desouza, former Minister and former member of the State Legislative Council; and Shri Abdul Reheman Khan, former member of the Council.

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session of the year 2007 on 16 July 2007 was adjourned *sine die* on 2 August 2007. The Governor prorogued the House on the same day, i.e. 2 August 2007. There were 12 sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following 9 Bills were considered and passed by the House: (i) The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iii) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007; (iv) The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007; (v) The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007; (vi) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2007; (vii) The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation

* Material contributed by the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly Secretariat

Bill, 2007; (viii) The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007, and (ix) The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

The following Bill was referred to the Joint Committee: (i) The Bombay Motor Vehicles Tax, the Motor Vehicles (Taxation of Passengers), The Maharashtra Education and Employment Guarantee (Cess), the Tax on Sale of Electricity, the State Tax on Professions, Trades, Callings and Employments, the Tax Acts (Amendment) and the Employment Guarantee (Amendment) and the Bombay State Scarcity Relief (Repeal) Bill, 2007.

Financial business: The Minister of Finance presented the Supplementary Demands for Grants for the year 2007-2008 on 17 July 2007. The discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands of five Departments was held on 23 and 24 July 2007.

A total of 151 Cut-Motions were received, out of which 67 were admitted, while 84 were disallowed. No Cut Motion was moved in the House.

The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007 was passed by the House on 25 July 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha; Sarvashri Ramrao Krishnarao *alias* Dadasaheb Patil, Jaswant Nanubhai Mehta, both former Ministers and former members of the Legislative Assembly; Shri Mahalingappa Baslingappa Sangvikar, former member of the State Legislative Assembly.

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Ninth Manipur Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Second Session on 31 July 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 2 August 2007. There were three sittings in all.

Election of Deputy Speaker: On 2 August 2007, Shri Th. Shyamkumar was unanimously elected as Deputy Speaker of the Ninth Manipur Legislative Assembly.

Legislative business: During the Session, the Salaries and Allowances

* Material contributed by the Manipur Legislative Assembly Secretariat.

of Chairman of the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Third Amendment Bill, 2007 was introduced and passed by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha.

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY*

The Fifth Mizoram Legislative Assembly, which commenced its Eleventh Session on 18 September 2007, was adjourned *sine die* on 19 September 2007 and prorogued by the Governor on the same day. There were two sittings in all.

Legislative business: During the Session, the following three Bills were introduced and passed by the House. (i) The Indian Stamp (Mizoram Amendment) Bill, 2007; (ii) The Mizoram Oil Palm (Regulation of Production and Processing) (Amendment) Bill, 2007; and (iii) The Mizoram Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2007.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha and Shri Pu L. Piandenga, former member of the State Legislative Assembly.

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

The Tenth Nagaland Legislative Assembly, commenced its Fifteenth Session on 18 September 2007 and was adjourned *sine die* and prorogued on the same day.

Legislative business: During the Session, The Nagaland Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007 was considered and passed by voice vote by the House.

Obituary references: During the Session, obituary references were made on the passing away of Shri Chandra Shekhar, former Prime Minister of India and sitting member of Lok Sabha and Shri T. Rothrong, former Minister of Nagaland.

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* Material contributed by the Mizoram Legislative Assembly Secretariat.
** Material contributed by the Nagaland Legislative Assembly Secretariat

13

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APPENDIX I

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	10 August 2007 to 10 September 2007
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	17 sittings
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	64 hours and 15 minutes
4.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	26
	(ii) Introduced	11
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Rajya Sabha	3
	(iv) Reported by Standing Committee	13
	(v) Discussed	10
	(vi) Passed	10
	(vii) Withdrawn	1
	(viii) Returned by Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	3
	(ix) Pending at the end of the Session	29
5.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	215
	(ii) Introduced	22
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Passed	Nil
	(v) Negatived	1
	(vi) Part-discussed	1
	(vii) Pending at the end of the Session	236
6.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 184	
	(i) Notices received	901
	(ii) Admitted	253
	(iii) Discussed	2
7.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED UNDER RULE 377	197
8.	NUMBER OF MATTERS RAISED ON URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE DURING ZERO HOUR	143
9.	NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 193 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)	
	(i) Notices received	565

	(ii) Admitted	6
	(iii) Discussions held	3
10.	NUMBER OF STATEMENTS MADE UNDER RULE 197 (Calling attention to matters of Urgent Public Importance)	3
11.	STATEMENTS MADE BY MINISTERS UNDER RULE 372 & DIRECTION 73A	36 (including 5 by HMPA)
12.	STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	12
	(ii) Admitted	11
	(iii) Moved	2
	(iv) Adopted	1
	(v) Negatived	1
13.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS	
	(I) Received	8
	(ii) Admitted	8
	(iii) Discussed	2
	(iv) Withdrawn	1
	(v) Part-discussed	1
14.	NUMBER OF ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Total number of Notices received	9
	(ii) Brought before the House	Nil
	(iii) Admitted	1
	(iv) Barred in view of Adjournment Motion admitted on the Subject	1
	(v) Consent withheld by the Speaker, Lok Sabha outside the House	7
15.	NUMBER OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE(S) CONSTITUTED, IF ANY DURING THE SESSION	Three Committees
16.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED DURING THE SESSION	8,288
17.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND THE DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	1,011 passes issued on 24 August 2007
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	380
	(ii) Starred Questions answered orally	35
	(iii) Un-starred	3,776
	(iv) Short Notice Questions	1
	(v) Half-an-Hour discussions	Nil

19. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE — 12

20. NUMBER OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATE — (One member each on 10 August 2007 and 6 September 2007)

21. NUMBER OF PRIVILEGE MOTIONS

(i) Notices received — 16

(ii) Brought before the House — 3

(iii) Consent withheld by Speaker — Nil

22. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of the Committee	No. of sittings held during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2007	No. of Reports presented
1	2	3	4
i)	Business Advisory Committee	—	—
ii)	Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House	—	—
iii)	Committee on Empowerment of Women	5	2
iv)	Committee on Estimates	3	2
v)	Committee on Ethics	—	—
vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	—	—
vii)	Committee on Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS)	1	—
viii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	—	—
ix)	Committee on Petitions	—	—
x)	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	2	2
xi)	Committee of Privileges	—	—
xii)	Committee on Public Accounts	5	9
xiii)	Committee on Public Undertakings	—	—
xiv)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	—	—
xv)	Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	2	5
xvi)	General Purposes Committee	—	—
xvii)	House Committee		
	a) Accommodation Sub-Committee	—	—
	b) Sub-Committee on Amenities	—	—
xviii)	Library Committee	—	—
xix)	Railway Convention Committee	—	—
xx)	Rules Committee	—	—

JOINT / SELECT COMMITTEE

i)	Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	—	—
ii)	Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament	—	—

DEPARTMENTALLY-RELATED STANDING COMMITTEES

i)	Committee on Agriculture	—	—
ii)	Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers	3	1
iii)	Committee on Coal & Steel	2	1
iv)	Committee on Defence	10	6
v)	Committee on Energy	—	—
vi)	Committee on External Affairs	6	—
vii)	Committee on Finance	6	1
viii)	Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution	—	—
ix)	Committee on Information Technology	7	3
x)	Committee on Labour	6	3
xi)	Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas	4	—
xii)	Committee on Railways	11	7
xiii)	Committee on Rural Development	2	—
xiv)	Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment	2	2
xv)	Committee on Urban Development	4	2
xvi)	Committee on Water Resources	3	—

CELL ON PARLIAMENTARY FORUM

Sl. No.	Name of Forum	No. of Meetings held during the period from 1 July to 30 September 2007	No. of lectures held
1.	Parliamentary Forum on Children	2	2
2.	Parliamentary Forum on Water Conservation and Management	1 (practical demonstration)	—
3.	Parliamentary Forum on Youth	—	—
4.	Parliamentary Forum on Population and Public Health	—	—

APPENDIX II

STATEMENT SHOWING THE WORK TRANSACTED DURING THE TWO HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE RAJYA SABHA

1.	PERIOD OF THE SESSION	10 August to 10 September 2007
2.	NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD	17
3.	TOTAL NUMBER OF SITTING HOURS	43 Hours and 48 Minutes
4.	NUMBER OF DIVISIONS HELD	Nil
5.	GOVERNMENT BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	45
	(ii) Introduced	5
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by Lok Sabha	6
	(iv) Returned by Lok Sabha with any amendment	Nil
	(v) Referred to Select Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vi) Referred to Joint Committee by the Rajya Sabha	Nil
	(vii) Referred to the Department-related Standing Committees	5
	(viii) Reported by Select Committee	Nil
	(ix) Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
	(x) Reported by the Department-related Standing Committees	15
	(xi) Discussed	10
	(xii) Passed	11
	(xiii) Withdrawn	1
	(xiv) Negatived	Nil
	(xv) Part-discussed	Nil
	(xvi) Returned by the Rajya Sabha without any recommendation	3
	(xvii) Discussion postponed	Nil
	(xviii) Pending at the end of the Session	45
6.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS	
	(i) Pending at the commencement of the Session	177
	(ii) Introduced	28
	(iii) Laid on the Table as passed by the Lok Sabha	Nil

(iv)	Returned by the Lok Sabha with any amendment and laid on the Table	Nil
(v)	Reported by Joint Committee	Nil
(vi)	Discussed	1
(vii)	Withdrawn	Nil
(viii)	Passed	Nil
(ix)	Negatived	Nil
(x)	Circulated for eliciting opinion	Nil
(xi)	Part-discussed	1
(xii)	Discussion postponed	Nil
(xiii)	Motion for circulation of Bill negatived	Nil
(xiv)	Referred to Select Committee	Nil
(xv)	Lapsed due to retirement/death of Member-in-charge of the Bill	Nil
(xvi)	Pending at the end of the Session	205

7. NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS HELD UNDER RULE 176 (Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

(i)	Notices received	146
(ii)	Admitted	10
(iii)	Discussions held	10

8. NUMBER OF STATEMENT MADE UNDER RULE 180 (Calling Attention to Matters of Urgent Public Importance)

	Statement made by Ministers	Nil

9. HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSIONS HELD — Nil

10. STATUTORY RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Notices received	2
(ii)	Admitted	2
(iii)	Moved	1
(iv)	Adopted	1
(v)	Negatived	Nil
(vi)	Withdrawn	Nil

11. GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS

(i)	Notices received	Nil
(ii)	Admitted	Nil
(iii)	Moved	Nil
(iv)	Adopted	Nil

12. PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTION

(i)	Received	7
(ii)	Admitted	7
(iii)	Discussed	Nil
(iv)	Withdrawn	Nil

	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Adopted	Nil
	(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
	(viii) Discussion postponed	Nil
13.	GOVERNMENT MOTIONS	
	(i) Notices received	Nil
	(ii) Admitted	Nil
	(iii) Moved & discussed	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	Nil
14.	PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS	
	(i) Received	360
	(ii) Admitted	342
	(iii) Moved	Nil
	(iv) Adopted	Nil
	(v) Part-discussed	Nil
	(vi) Negatived	Nil
	(vii) Withdrawn	Nil
15.	MOTIONS REGARDING MODIFICATION OF STATUTORY RULE	
	(i) Received	1
	(ii) Admitted	1
	(iii) Moved	1
	(iv) Adopted	1
	(v) Negatived	Nil
	(vi) Withdrawn	Nil
	(vii) Part-discussed	Nil
	(viii) Lapsed	Nil
16.	NUMBER, NAME AND DATE OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CREATED, IF ANY	Nil
17.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED	816
18.	TOTAL NUMBER OF VISITORS	1,591
19.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS' PASSES ISSUED ON ANY SINGLE DAY, AND DATE ON WHICH ISSUED	94 (on 21.8.2007)
20.	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF VISITORS ON ANY SINGLE DAY AND DATE	234 (on 7.9.2007)
21.	TOTAL NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ADMITTED	
	(i) Starred	380
	(ii) Unstarred	1,085
	(iii) Short-Notice Questions	Nil
22.	DISCUSSIONS ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRIES	Nil

23. WORKING OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES

Sl. No.	Name of Committee	No. of meetings held during the period 1 July to 30 September 2007	No. of Reports presented
(i)	Business Advisory Committee	3	Nil
(ii)	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	1	2
(iii)	Committee on Petitions	6	Nil
(iv)	Committee of Privileges	2	3
(v)	Committee on Rules	Nil	Nil
(vi)	Committee on Government Assurances	4	Nil
(vii)	Committee on Papers Laid on the Table	2	1
(viii)	General Purposes Committee	Nil	Nil
(ix)	House Committee	1	Nil
Department-related Standing Committees:			
(x)	Commerce	7	1
(xi)	Home Affairs	7	1
(xii)	Human Resource Development	1	1
(xiii)	Industry	12	1
(xiv)	Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	5	Nil
(xv)	Transport, Tourism and Culture	4	3
(xvi)	Health & Family Welfare	4	1
(xvii)	Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice	9	3
Other Committees			
(xviii)	Committee on Ethics	Nil	Nil
(xix)	Committee on Provision of Computers to Members of Rajya Sabha	1	Nil
(xx)	Committee on Member of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme	Nil	Nil
(xxi)	Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Functioning of Wakf Boards	3	Nil

24. NUMBER OF MEMBERS GRANTED LEAVE OF ABSENCE 6

25. PETITIONS PRESENTED 2

26. NAME OF NEW MEMBERS SWORN-IN WITH DATES

Sl. No.	Name of Members sworn-in	Party Affiliation	Date on which sworn-in
1	2	3	4
1.	Shri B.S. Gnanadesikan	INC	25.7.2007
2.	Smt. Kanimozhi	DMK	26.7.2007
3.	Shri D. Raja	CPI	-do-

4.	Shri Tiruchi Siva	DMK	-do-
5.	Shri A. Elavarasan	AIADMK	1.8.2007
6.	Dr. V. Maitreyan	AIADMK	-do-

27. OBITUARY REFERENCES

Sl. No.	Name	Sitting Member/ Ex-Member
1.	Shri Chandra Shekhar, Former Prime Minister	Ex-Member
2.	Shri Shankarrao Bajirao Bobdey	-do-
3.	Shri Jagdish Prasad Mathur	-do-
4.	Shri Ashis Sen	-do-
5.	Shri Banarsi Das Gupta	-do-

APPENDIX III

STATEMENT SHOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Legislature	Duration	Sittings	Govt. Bills	Private Bills	Starred Questions	Unstarred Questions	Short Notice Questions
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
STATES							
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.*	17.7.2007 to 19.7.2007	1	—	—	—	—	—
Assam L.A.	6.8.2007 to 9.8.2007	4	7(7)	—	281(272)	216(203)	68(67)
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	12.7.2007 to 18.7.2007	5	–(4)	—	480(474)	—	99(66)
Chhattisgarh L.A.	9.7.2007 to 26.7.2007	10	9(9)	—	546(238)	325(192)	—
Goa L.A.	16.7.2007 to 30.7.2007	10	1(1)	1	303(253)	173(201)•	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.	17.9.2007 to 19.9.2007	3	12(12)	—	127(92)	26(17)	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	27.8.2007 to 29.8.2007	3	8(9)	—	120(59)	61(38)	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	17.8.2007 to 20.8.2007	4	1(1)	—	85(78)	—	80(73)
Karnataka L.A.	5.7.2007 to 7.8.2007	24	10(11)	—	1,634(255)	1,634(1,378)	—
Karnataka L.C.	5.7.2007 to 7.8.2007	23	–(12)	—	793(255)	374(912)•	—
Kerala L.A.	4.9.2007 to 20.9.2007	13	20(15)	—	1,474	4,041	—

Madhya Pradesh L.A.	18.7.2007 to 1.8.2007	9	9(9)	—	1,686(981)	1,067(1,313)●	—
Maharashtra L.A.	16.7.2007 to 2.8.2007	12	9(9)	—	8,042(1,028)	50(1,050)●	11(4)
Maharashtra L.C.	16.7.2007 to 2.8.2007	12	2(10)	—	4,194(990)	20(825)●	22(4)
Manipur L.A.	31.7.2007 to 2.8.2007	3	1(1)	—	10(10)	1(1)	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A.	18.9.2007 to 19.9.2007	2	3(3)	—	52(48)	25(12)	—
Nagaland L.A.	18.9.2007 to 18.9.2007	1	1(1)	—	12(12)	—	—
Orissa L.A.	1.6.2007 to 13.7.2007	24	3(2)	—	3,377(2,578)	3,789(5,167)●	9(1)
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	18.9.2007 to 21.9.2007	4	6(7)	—	347(335)	360(348)	—
Sikkim L.A.	6.9.2007 to 7.9.2007	—	6(6)	—	–(11)	–(9)	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	7.9.2007 to 11.9.2007	3	5(5)	—	203(124)	829(610)	2(1)
Uttarakhand L.A.	27.6.2007 to 10.7.2007	8	6(5)	—	324(131)	–(280)●	194(29)
Uttar Pradesh L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	27.6.2007 to 24.7.2007	13	–(21)	—	1,404(1,235)	86(74)	109(103)
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES							
Delhi L.A.	12.9.2007 to 18.9.2007	5	4(3)	—	–(100)	–(310)	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

● Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred Questions

APPENDIX III (Contd.)

COMMITTEES AT WORK / NUMBER OF SITTINGS HELD AND NUMBER OF REPORTS PRESENTED DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

	Business Advisory Committee	Committee on Government Assurances	Committee on Petitions	Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	Committee of Privileges	Committee on Public Undertakings	Committee on Subordinate Legislation	Committee on the Welfare of SCs and STs	Committee on Estimates	General Purposes Committee	House/Accommodation Committee	Library Committee	Public Accounts Committee	Rules Committee	Joint/Select Committee	Other Committees
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
STATES																
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	2[a]

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Assam L.A.	2	1	1	—	—	3	1	1	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	7[b]
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C.	1(1)	9	11(3)	11(1)	11	—	10	11	—	11	10	11	—	1	—	74[c]
Chhattisgarh L.A.	2(2)	2	1(2)	2	—	4(1)	1	2	3	—	1	1	8(5)	—	—	4(2)[d]
Goa L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A.	1(1)	13	14	—	13	23	22	14	17	—	3	15	14	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A.	1(1)	—	—	—	4	13(6)	7	12(6)	12(4)	—	—	—	14(17)	—	—	30(14)[e]
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A.	1(1)	16	12	—	—	9	11	30	24	—	—	8	9	—	—	219[f]
Karnataka L.A.	3	7(1)	1	—	3	5	7(3)	3	4(1)	—	3	3	9	—	—	19(4)[g]
Karnataka L.C.	1	2	3	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2(2)[h]
Kerala L.A.	2(2)	4	5	6(2)	3(1)	6(4)	3	4	9(2)	—	3	1	9(8)	—	—	40(17)[i]
Madhya Pradesh L.A.	2(2)	3	6(1)	1(1)	2	8	2(3)	6(2)	5(1)	—	9	1	1(14)	—	—	12(2)[j]
Maharashtra L.A.	1(1)	11(1)	3(3)	1(1)	7	17(2)	11	17(1)	16	—	1	1	13(1)	—	4	48(10)[k]
Maharashtra L.C.	2(1)	5	1	—	1	17(2)	11	17(1)	16	—	1	1	13(1)	—	4	47(9)[l]
Manipur L.A.	1(1)	4	1	—	3	2	—	5	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	4[m]
Meghalaya L.A.	—	1	2	—	—	2	6	5	2	—	—	1	7	—	—	7[n]
Mizoram L.A.	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3(6)	—	—	20(2)[o]
Nagaland L.A.	1	1	—	—	—	1(3)	—	—	1(1)	—	—	1	4(4)	—	—	—
Orissa L.A.	1(1)	4	6	—	—	9	8	6	6	—	4	7	8	1(1)	3	67[p]
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A.	1(1)	22	18	—	15	20(9)	23	44	51	—	26	17	24(28)	8	15(1)	60[q]
Sikkim L.A.	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	11	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.	1(1)	3(1)	1(1)	—	—	1(1)	1	5	2(1)	—	—	—	5(7)	—	—	—

	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Uttarakhand L.A.	4(4)	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C.	6	11	6	—	4(1)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	84(4)[c]
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
Delhi L.A.	1(1)	3(1)	—	1(1)	—	2	—	—	2(1)	—	—	—	1	1(1)	—	—
Puducherry L.A.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Starred Questions and Short Notices admitted as Unstarred

(a) Ad-hoc Committee on Modalities on Tender System-2

(b) Employment Review Committee-2; Committee on Women and Children-2; Committee on Act Implementation-2; and Committee on OBC and MOBC-1

(c) Question and Calling Attention Committee-8; Committee on Human Rights-10; Nivedan Committee-15; Committee on State Language-10; Committee on Welfare of Minorities-10; Zila Parishad and Panchayati Raj Committee-11; and Committee on Papers laid on the Table-10

(d) Question and Reference Committee-3(1); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-1(1)

(e) Public Administration Committee-9(6); Human Development Committee-6(2); General Development Committee-8(4); and Rural Planning Committee-7(2)

(f) Primitive Tribes Committee-10; Nivedan Committee-17; Scheduled Tribes Language Development Committee-9; Zero Hour Committee-35; Zila Panchayati/Zila Parishad Committee-12; Question and Calling Attention Committee-12; Compassion and Family Benefit Committee-8; Backward and Feeble Class Welfare Committee-11; Member Convenience Committee-10; Gair Government Resolution Committee-9; Tourism Development Committee-11; Environment and Pollution Control Committee-11; Slum Area Welfare Committee-8; Minority Weavers Welfare Committee-9; Youth, Culture and Sports Committee-9; Woman and Child Development Committee-11; Internal Resources Committee-9; Committee on Development of Primitive Tribes-10; and Morality Committee-8

(g) Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-4(1); Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2(1); Committee on Backward Classes and

Minorities-4(1); and Joint House Committee on Government Land Encroachment-9(1)

(h) Special House Committee-(1); and School Development and Monitoring Committee-2(1)

(i) Committee on the Welfare of Women, Children, and Physically Handicapped-8; Committee on Environment-6; Committee on the Welfare of Backward Class Communities-3; Committee on Official Language-3; Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-2; Committee on Local Fund Accounts-5; and Subject Committees-13(17)

(j) Question and Reference Committee-2; Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-4(2); and Committee on Papers Laid on the Table-6

(k) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-5(3); Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-10(1); Committee on Leave of Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House-1(1); Panchayati Raj Committee-10(2); Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-9; and Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-13(3)

(l) Committee on Welfare of Vimukta Jatis and Nomadic Tribes-5(3); Committee on Employment Guarantee Scheme-10(1); Panchayati Raj Committee-10(2); Committee on Rights and Welfare of Women-9; and Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes-13(3)

(m) Hill Areas Committee-1; and Committee on Welfare of Women and Children-3

(n) Committee on Empowerment of Women-7

(o) Ethics Committee-4; and Subject Committees-16(2)

(p) Standing Committees-47; Ethics Committee-1; and House Committees-19

(q) Committee on Welfare of Woman and Child-17; Question and Reference Committee-22; and Committee on Welfare of Backward Classes-21

(r) Question and Reference Committee-15; Committee on Financial and Administrative Delays-14(1); Committee on Parliamentary Study-13; Committee on Enquiry of Housing Complaints of U.P. Ligislature-16(1); Parliamentary and Social Welfare Committee-4(1); Committee on Control of Irregularities in Development Authorities, Housing Board, Zila Panchayats and Municipal Corporation-8(1) and Committee on Enquiry of Provincial Electricity Arrangement-14

APPENDIX IV

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT AND ASSENTED TO BY THE PRESIDENT DURING THE PERIOD FROM

1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Sl. No.	Title of the Bill	Date of Assent
1	2	3
1.	The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2007	29.8.2007
2.	The State Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 2007	3.9.2007
3.	The Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 2007	3.9.2007
4.	The Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 2007	7.9.2007
5.	The Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2007	17.9.2007
6.	The Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2007	19.9.2007
7.	The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2007	19.9.2007
8.	The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Amendment Bill, 2007	24.9.2007
9.	The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2007	24.9.2007
10.	The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2007	24.9.2007
11.	The Carriage by Road Bill, 2007	29.9.2007

APPENDIX V

LIST OF BILLS PASSED BY THE LEGISLATURES OF THE STATES AND THE UNION TERRITORIES DURING THE PERIOD

1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

ARUNACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Arunachal Pradesh Parliamentary Secretaries (Appointment, Salaries, Allowances and Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, 2007

ASSAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Assam Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
2. The Assam Contingency Fund (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Assam Agricultural Income Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Assam Tax on Luxuries (Hostels and Lodging Houses) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Assam Taxation (Liquidation of Arrear Dues Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Assam Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Assam Police Bill, 2007

BIHAR LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Bihar Dukan Evam Pratisthan (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
2. The Bihar Viniyog (Sankhya-3) Vidheyak, 2007
3. The Bihar Prarambhik Vidyalaya Shiksha Samiti Vidheyak, 2007
4. The Bihar Karamchari Chayan Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

CHHATTISGARH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Chhattisgarh Madarsa Board (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
2. The Chhattisgarh Sthaniya Kshetra me Mal ke Pravesh par Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
3. The Chhattisgarh Mullya Samvardhit Kar (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
4. The Chhattisgarh Viniyog (Kramank-3) Vidheyak, 2007
5. The Chhattisgarh Shram Kalyan Nidhi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
6. The Chhattisgarh Chikitsha Mandal (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
7. The Chhattisgarh Police Vidheyak, 2007
8. The Chhattisgarh Lok Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
9. The Chhattisgarh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya Vetan, Bhatta, Tatha Pension (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

GOA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Goa Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007

HARYANA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Haryana Panchayati Raj (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Haryana Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
3. The Haryana Appropriation (No.4) Bill, 2007
4. The Haryana Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Haryana Tax on Luxuries Bill, 2007
6. The Haryana Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Punjab Passengers and Goods Taxation (Haryana Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Punjab Excise (Haryana Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya Khanpur Kalan (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
10. The Maharshi Dayanand University (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
11. The Kurukshetra University (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
12. The Chaudhary Devi Lal University Sirsa (Amendment) Bill, 2007*

HIMACHAL PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Himachal Pradesh Judicial Officers Pay, Allowances and Conditions of Service (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Himachal Pradesh Police Bill, 2007
3. The Shimla Road Users and Pedestrians (Public Safety and Convenience) Bill, 2007
4. The Himachal Pradesh Lefts Bill, 2007
5. The Himachal Pradesh Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Himachal Pradesh Maintenance of Parents and Dependents (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Himachal Pradesh Public Premises and Land (Eviction and Rent Recovery) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Himachal Pradesh Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Himachal Pradesh Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 2007

JHARKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Jharkhand Viniyog (Sankhya-3) Vidheyak, 2007

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2007
2. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Chit Funds (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007
5. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
6. The Karnataka High Court and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2007

9. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
10. The Karnataka Excise (No.3) Bill, 2007
11. The Karnataka Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007

KARNATAKA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Karnataka State Civil Services (Regulation of Transfer of Teachers) Bill, 2007
2. The Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Bill, 2007
3. The Karnataka Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Chit Funds (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Karnataka Professional Educational Institutions (Regulation of Admission and Fixation of Fee) (Special Provisions) Bill, 2007
6. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 2007
7. The Karnataka High Court and Certain Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Karnataka State Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Karnataka Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007
11. The Karnataka Excise (Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Karnataka Entertainments Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007

KERALA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Bill, 2007
2. The Arthapalisa, Jenmibhogam and Karathil Chelavu (Abolition) Bill, 2007
3. The Kerala Ayurveda Health Centres (Issue of Licence and Control) Bill, 2007
4. The Kerala State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Bill, 2007
5. The Kerala State Higher Education Council Bill, 2007
6. The Kerala Revenue Recovery (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Edavagai Rights Acquisition (Amendment) Bill, 2007
8. The Kerala Police (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Kerala Women's Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2007
10. The Kerala Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Bill, 2007
11. The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Bill, 2007
12. The Mahatma Gandhi University (Amendment) Bill, 2007
13. The University Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2007
14. The Cochin University of Science and Technology (Amendment) Bill, 2007
15. The Kerala Professional Colleges or Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee, Regulation of Admission, Fixation of Non-Exploitative Fee and other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence in Professional Education) Amendment Bill, 2007

MADHYA PRADESH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Danda Prakriya Samhita (Madhya Pradesh Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
2. The Madhya Pradesh Nijee Vyavasyik Shikshan Sanstha (Pravesh Ka Viniyaman Tatha Shulk ka Nirdharan) Vidheyak, 2007

3. The Madhya Pradesh Viniyog (Kramank-3) Vidheyak, 2007
4. The Madhya Pradesh Sthaniya Kshetra me Mal ke Pravesh Par Kar (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
5. The Nyalaya Fees (Madhya Pradesh Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
6. The Madhya Pradesh Vyavasyik Pariksha Mandal Vidheyak, 2007
7. The Madhya Pradesh Upkar (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
8. The Madhya Pradesh Tendupatta (Vyapaar Viniyaman) Sanshodhan Vidheyak, 2007
9. The Madhya Pradesh Vidhan Sabha Sadasya, Vetan, Vatta Tatha Pension (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Bombay Village Panchayat and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Third Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Code of Criminal Procedure (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007
8. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007
9. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007

MAHARASHTRA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Maharashtra Legislature Members' Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Mumbai Provincial Municipal Corporations, Nagpur City Corporation and Maharashtra Nagar Parishads, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Bombay Village Panchayat and Maharashtra Zilla Parishads and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Maharashtra Land Revenue Code (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Criminal Procedure Code (Maharashtra Amendment) Bill, 2007
6. The Maharashtra Municipal Councils, Nagar Panchayats and Industrial Townships (Amendment) Bill, 2007
7. The Maharashtra Tax Laws (Levy, Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2007
8. The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007
9. The Maharashtra (Second Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2007

MANIPUR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Salaries and Allowances of Chairman of the Manipur Legislative Assembly (Hill Areas Committee) Third Amendment Bill, 2007

MIZORAM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Mizoram Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill, 2007

2. The Indian Stamp (Mizoram Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Mizoram Oil Palm (Regulation of Production and Processing) Bill, 2007

NAGALAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Nagaland Municipal (Second Amendment) Bill, 2007

ORISSA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Orissa Appropriation Bill, 2007
2. The Orissa Legislative Assembly Members' Salary, Allowances and Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2007

RAJASTHAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Rajasthan Police Bill, 2007*
2. The Rajasthan Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
3. The Rajasthan Monuments, Archaeological Sites & Antiquities (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
4. The Rajasthan Public Trusts (Amendment) Bill, 2007*
5. The Rajasthan Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2007*
6. The Rajasthan Private Universities (Repeal) Bill, 2007*
7. The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2007*

SIKKIM LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Registration of Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2007
2. The Sikkim Panchayat (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Sikkim Municipalities (First Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Sikkim Prison Bill, 2007
5. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2007 (for excess Demands for Grants 2002-2003)
6. The Sikkim Appropriation Bill, 2007 (for the first Supplementary Demands for Grants 2007-2008)

TRIPURA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Tripura Municipality Disclosure Bill, 2007
2. The Tripura Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Salaries and Allowances of Minister (Tripura) (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill, 2007
4. The Salaries, Allowances and Pensions of the Members of the Legislative Assembly (Tripura) (Eighteenth Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Tripura Value Added Tax (Amendment) Bill, 2007

UTTARAKHAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Uttarakhand Appropriation Bill, 2007
2. The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) (Amendment) Bill, 2007
3. The Uttarakhand District Planning Committee Bill, 2007

4. The Uttarakhand Panchayat Laws (First Amendment) Bill, 2007
5. The Uttarakhand Protection of Cow Progeny Bill, 2007
6. The Uttarakhand Police Bill, 2007*

UTTAR PRADESH LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

1. The Uttar Pradesh Viniyog (Dwitiya Lekhanudaan) Vidheyak, 2007
2. The Uttar Pradesh King George Danta Vigyan Vishwavidyalaya (Nirsharan) Vidheyak, 2007
3. The Uttar Pradesh Alpashankyaka Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
4. The Uttar Pradesh Jal Sambharan Tatha Sewar Vyavastha (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
5. The Uttar Pradesh Go-Sewa Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
6. The Uttar Pradesh Pichhde Vergon Rajya Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
7. The Uttar Pradesh Awas Evam Vikas Parishad (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
8. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
9. The Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Sewa Chayan Board (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
10. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhi Aayog (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2007
11. The Uttar Pradesh Adhinastha Sewa Aayog (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2007
12. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidhan Mandal (Adhikari Evam Neta Virodhi Dal ke Awas) (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2007
13. The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Mahila Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
14. The Uttar Pradesh Krida (Shanghon ka Registration, Manyata aur Viniyaman) (Nirsan) Vidheyak, 2007
15. The Uttar Pradesh Anusuchit Jati aur Anusuchit Janjati Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
16. The Uttar Pradesh Uchatar Shiksha Seva Aayog (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
17. The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
18. The Uttar Pradesh Van Nigam (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007
19. The Uttar Pradesh Viniyog Vidheyak, 2007
20. The Uttar Pradesh Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal (Samrakshan aur Anurakshan) Vidheyak, 2007
21. The Uttar Pradesh Pravidhik Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Vidheyak, 2007

DELHI LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

1. The Delhi Fire Service Bill, 2007
2. The National Capital Territory of Delhi (Incredible India) Bed & Breakfast Establishments (Registration & Regulation) Bill, 2007
3. The Indian Stamp (Delhi Amendment) Bill, 2007

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* Bills awaiting assent

APPENDIX VI

ORDINANCES PROMULGATED BY THE UNION AND STATE GOVERNMENTS DURING THE PERIOD

1 JULY TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Sl. No.	Title of Ordinance	Date of Promulgation	Date on which laid before the House	Date of Cessation	Remarks
		UNION GOVERNMENT			
1.	The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2007	4.7.2007	13.8.2007	—	Repealed by Ordinance
2.	The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2007	15.9.2007	—	—	—
		CHHATTISGARH			
1.	The Chhattisgarh Kshetra Me Mal Ke Pravesh Par Kar (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	21.5.2007	10.7.2007	—	—
		GOA			
1.	The Goa Tax on Infrastructure (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	19.3.2007	17.7.2007	—	—

		HARYANA			
1.	The Haryana Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	17.4.2007	18.9.2007	18.9.2007	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Haryana Tax on Luxuries Ordinance, 2007	7.9.2007	18.9.2007	19.9.2007	Replaced by Legislation
		HIMACHAL PRADESH			
1.	The Himachal Pradesh Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	15.7.2007	27.8.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
		KERALA			
1.	The Kerala Women's Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Kerala Ayurveda Health Centres (Issue of Licence and Control) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
3.	The Kerala Anti-Social Activities (Prevention) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
4.	The Kerala Police (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
5.	The University Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
6.	The Unive.sity Laws (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	—
7.	The Mahatma Gandhi University (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation

8.	The Kerala State Higher Education Council Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
9.	The Kerala Sports (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	3.8.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
10.	The Kerala Revenue Recovery (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
11.	The Edavagai Rights Acquisition (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
12.	The Kerala Survey and Boundaries (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
13.	The Arthapalisa, Janmibhogam and Karathil Chelavu (Abolition) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
14.	The Kerala State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Regulation of Issue of Community Certificate Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	—
15.	The Kerala State Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation
16.	The Kerala Farmers' Debt Relief Commission (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.7.2007	4.9.2007	—	—
17.	The Kerala Professional Colleges or Institutions (Prohibition of Capitation Fee, Regulation of Admission, Fixation of Non-	3.8.2007	4.9.2007	—	Replaced by Legislation

	Exploitative Fee and other Measures to Ensure Equity and Excellence in Professional Education) Amendment Ordinance, 2007				
			MADHYA PRADESH		
1.	The Nyalaya Fees (Madhya Pradesh) (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	18.4.2007	—	23.7.2007	Replaced by Legislation
2.	The Madhya Pradesh Nijee Vyavasayik Shikshan Sanstha (Pravesh Ka Viniyaman Evam Shulk ka Nirdharan) Adhyadesh, 2007	22.5.2007	—	23.7.2007	Replaced by Legislation
3	The Madhya Pradesh Sthaniya Kshetra me Mal ke Pravesh Par Kar (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	27.6.2007	—	23.7.2007	Replaced by Legislation
			MAHARASHTRA		
1.	The Maharashtra Contingency Fund (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	8.6.2007	17.7.2007	26.8.2007	—
2.	The Bombay Village Panchayats and the Maharashtra Zila Parishad and Panchayat Samitis (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	12.6.2007	17.7.2007	26.8.2007	Replaced by Legislation
3	The Maharashtra Value Added Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	30.6.2007	17.7.2007	26.8.2007	Replaced by Legislation
			ORISSA		
1.	The Orissa Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	26.9.2007	—	—	—

		RAJASTHAN			
1.	The Rajasthan Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	1.5.2007	18.9.2007	—	—
2.	The Rajasthan Panchayati Raj (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	9.5.2007	18.9.2007	—	—
3	The Rajasthan Public Trusts (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	9.5.2007	18.9.2007	—	—
4.	The Rajasthan Monuments, Archaeological Sites & Antiquities (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	25.5.2007	18.9.2007	—	—
5.	The Rajasthan Private Universities (Repeal) Ordinance, 2007	5.7.2007	18.9.2007	—	—
		UTTARAKHAND			
1.	The Uttarakhand (The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950) (Adaptation and Modification Order, 2001) (Amendment) Ordinance, 2007	10.5.2007	27.6.2007	13.7.2007	Replaced by Legislation
		UTTAR PRADESH			
1.	The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Vinash Aur Bhumi Vyawasta (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	31.7.2007	—	—	—
2.	The Uttar Pradesh Uchhatar Shiksha Seva Ayog (Sanshodhan) (Dwitiya) Adhyadesh, 2007	7.8.2007	—	—	—

3.	The Uttar Pradesh Anusuchit Jati Aur Anusuchit Janjati Ayog (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	7.8.2007	—	—	—
4.	The Uttar Pradesh Sahakari Samiti (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	7.8.2007	—	—	—
5.	The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Uchcha Siksha Parishad Samiti Parishad (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	7.8.2007	—	—	—
6.	The Uttar Pradesh Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Sthal Adhyadesh, 2007	7.8.2007	—	—	—
7.	The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Utpadan Mandi (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	10.8.2007	—	—	—
8.	The Uttar Pradesh Kshetra Vikas (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	13.8.2007	—	—	—
9.	The Uttar Pradesh Panchayat Vidhi (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	20.8.2007	—	—	—
10.	The Chhatrapati Shahuji Maharaj, Chikitsa Vishwavidyalya Uttar Pradesh (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—
11.	The Uttar Pradesh Lok Seva Anusuchit, Jatiyon, Anusuchit Janjatiyon Aur Annya Pichhde Vargon ke Liye Arakshan) (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—

12.	The Uttar Pradesh Pravidhik Vishwavidyalaya (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—
13.	The Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vishwavidyalaya (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—
14.	The Uttar Pradesh Zamindari Vinash Aur Bhumi Vywastha (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—
15.	The Chhatrapati Sahuji Maharaj Chikitsa Vishwavidyalaya Uttar Pradesh (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	25.8.2007	—	—	—
16.	The Uttar Pradesh Krishi Evam Prodyogik Vishwavidyalaya (Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	31.8.2007	—	—	—
17.	The Uttar Pradesh Sahakari Samiti (Dwitiya Sanshodhan) Adhyadesh, 2007	5.9.2007	—	—	—
18.	The Uttar Pradesh Sthaniya Kshetra me Mal Ke Pravesh Par Kar Adhyadesh, 2007	24.9.2007	—	—	—

APPENDIX VII

A. PARTY POSITION IN 14TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 3 NOVEMBER 2007)

States	No. of Seats	INC	BJP	CPI (M)	SP	RJD	BSP	DMK	SS	BJD	CPI	NCP	JD(U)	SAD	PMK	JMM	TRS	TDP	MDMK	LJSP	AIFB
Andhra Pradesh	42	30	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	5	4	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	14	9	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	40	3	5	—	—	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Chhattisgarh	11	2	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Goa	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	26	12	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	10	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	4	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand	14	6	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	28	9	16	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kerala	20	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	29	4	24	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Maharashtra	48	13	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Manipur	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	21	2	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	13	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	25	4	21	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	39	10	—	2	—	—	—	16	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	4	—	—
Tripura	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand	5	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	80	9	10	—	36	—	18	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	42	6	—	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Nominated	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
UNION TERRITORIES																					
A & N Islands	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Daman and Diu	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
The NCT of Delhi	7	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puducherry	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	545	151	130	43	36	24	18	16	12	11	10	11	7	8	6	5	5	4	4	4	3

APPENDIX VII (CONTD.)

A. PARTY POSITION IN 14TH LOK SABHA (AS ON 3 NOVEMBER 2007)

States	JD(S)	RLD	RSP	AGP	J&K NC	KC	AIM IM	AITC	BNP	J&K PDP	MNF	MLK SC	NPF	NLP	RPI (A)	SDF	IND	TOTAL	VACAN-CIES
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Assam	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	1
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
Goa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	26	—
Haryana	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	—
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	14	—
Karnataka	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	—
Kerala	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	20	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	28	1
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	48	—
Manipur	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21	—
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—
Rajasthan	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	25	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	39	—
Tripura	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	79	1
West Bengal	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	42	—
Nominated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
UNION TERRITORIES																			
A & N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Daman and Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
The NCT of Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total	3	3	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	541	4

Abbreviations used in respect of parties represented in the Lok Sabha:

AGP–Asom Gana Parishad; AIFB–All India Forward Bloc; AIMIM–All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen; AITC–All India Trinamool Congress; BJD–Biju Janata Dal; BJP–Bharatiya Janata Party; BNP–Bharatiya Navshakti Party; BSP–Bahujan Samaj Party; CPI(M)–Communist Party of India (Marxist); CPI–Communist Party of India; DMK–Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; INC–Indian National Congress; IND–Independents; J&KPDP–Jammu & Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party; J&KNC–Jammu & Kashmir National Conference; JD(S)–Janata Dal (Secular); JD(U)–Janata Dal (United); JMM–Jharkhand Mukti Morcha; KC–Kerala Congress; LJSP–Lok Jan Shakti Party; MDMK–Marumalarchi Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam; MLKSC–Muslim League Kerala State Committee; MNF–Mizo National Front; NCP–Nationalist Congress Party; NLP–National Loktantrik Party; NPF–Nagaland Peoples Front; PMK–Pattali Makkal Katchi; RJD–Rashtriya Janata Dal; RLD–Rashtriya Lok Dal; RPI(A)–Republican Party of India(A); RSP–Revolutionary Socialist Party; SAD–Shiromani Akali Dal; SDF–Sikkim Democratic Front; SP–Samajwadi Party; SS–Shiv Sena; TDP–Telugu Desam Party; TRS–Telangana Rashtra Samithi

Sl. No.	State/Union Territories	Seats	INC	BJP	SP	CPI (M)	AIA-DMK	RJD	TDP	BSP	NCP	JD(U)	*Others	IND	Total	Vacancies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
STATES																
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18	10	—	—	1	—	—	6	—	—	—	1[a]	—	18	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
3.	Assam	7	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[b]	1	7	—
4.	Bihar	16	1	3	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	4	1[c]	—	16	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—
6.	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
7.	Gujarat	11	3	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	1
8.	Haryana	5	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[d]	1	5	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[e]	—	4	—
11.	Jharkhand	6	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	6	—
12.	Karnataka	12	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[f]	2	12	—
13.	Kerala	9	4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[g]	—	9	—
14.	Madhya Pradesh	11	3	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—
15.	Maharashtra	19	6	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	5[h]	2	19	—
16.	Manipur	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
17.	Meghalaya	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
18.	Mizoram	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[i]	—	1	—
19.	Nagaland	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[j]	—	1	—
20.	Orissa	10	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4[k]	1	10	—
21.	Punjab	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3[l]	—	7	—
22.	Rajasthan	10	4	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—
23.	Sikkim	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[m]	—	1	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	18	3	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	5[n]	—	18	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
25.	Tripura	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
26.	Uttarakhand	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	31	1	6	16	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	2[o]	—	31	—
28.	West Bengal	16	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	6[p]	1	16	—
UNION TERRITORIES																
29.	NCT of Delhi	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—
30.	Puducherry	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
31.	Nominated	12	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9[q]	—	12	—
	TOTAL	245	72	47	16	14	10	7	6	6	5	5	48	8	244	1

***OTHERS**

(Break-up of Parties/Groups)

a) Communist Party of India-1
(b) Asom Gana Parishad-1
(c) Samata Party-1
(d) Indian National Lok Dal-2
(e) Jammu and Kashmir National Conference-1; and Peoples' Democratic Party-1
(f) Janata Dal (Secular)-2
(g) Muslim League-1; Communist Party of India-1
(h) Shiv Sena-4; and Sadbhavana Party-1
(i) Mizo National Front-1
(j) Nagaland Peoples Front-1
(k) Biju Janata Dal-4
(l) Shiromani Akali Dal-3
(m) Sikkim Democratic Front-1
(n) Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam-3; and Pattali Makkal Katchi-1; and Communist Party of India-1
(o) Rashtriya Lok Dal-1; and Expelled from Bahujan Samaj Party-1
(p) All India Trinamool Congress-3; Forward Bloc-2; and Revolutionary Socialist Party-1
(q) Nominated-9

State/Union territories	Seats	INC	BJP	CPI(M)	CPI	NCP	BSP	Janata Dal (U)	Janata Dal (S)	Other Parties	Ind.	Total	Vacan-cies
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh L.A. (1.10.2007)	60	43	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2[a]	14	60	—
Assam L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar L.C. (1.10.2007)	75	4	14	2	3	—	—	15	—	13[b]	23	74•	—
Chhattisgarh L.A. (1.10.2007)	91	34	52	—	—	1	1	—	—	1[c]	—	89	2
Goa L.A. (7.6.2007)	40	16	14	—	—	3	—	—	—	5[d]	2	40	—
Gujarat L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana L.A. (1.10.2007)	90	66	2	—	—	1	1	—	—	9[e]	10	89•	—
Himachal Pradesh L.A. (1.10.2007)	68	42	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	1[f]	6	66	2
Jammu & Kashmir L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir L.C.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Jharkhand L.A. (1.10.2007)	82	8	29	—	—	1	—	5	—	33[g]	4	80•	1
Karnataka L.A. (6.11.2007)	225	65	79	1	—	—	—	5	57	4[h]	13	224•	—
Karnataka L.C.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Kerala L.A. (1.10.2007)	141	24	—	60	17	2	—	—	5	27[f]	5	140[•]	—
Madhya Pradesh L.A. (1.10.2007)	231	40	168	1	—	1	2	1	—	13[g]	2	228[•]	2
Maharashtra L.A. (1.11.2007)	289	75	54	3	—	71	—	—	—	67[h]	19	289	—
Maharashtra L.C. (1.10.2007)	78	21	13	—	—	21	—	—	—	13[g]	10	78	—
Manipur L.A. (1.10.2007)	60	31	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	11[m]	10	60	—
Meghalaya L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram L.A. (1.10.2007)	40	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	27[n]	4	40	—
Nagaland L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa L.A. (30.9.2007)	147	38	32	1	1	—	—	—	—	67[o]	8	147	—
Punjab L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan L.A. (30.9.2007)	200	55	123	1	—	—	2	2	—	4[p]	13	200	—
Sikkim L.A.*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttarakhand L.A. (1.10.2007)	71	20	36	—	—	—	8	—	—	7[q]	—	71	—
Uttar Pradesh L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh L.C. (1.11.2007)	100	3	24	—	—	—	14	—	—	53[r]	4	98	2
West Bengal L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

UNION TERRITORY													
Delhi L.A. (1.10.2007)	70	47	20	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	70	—
Puducherry L.A.**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Information received from the State/Union territory Legislatures contained NIL report

** Information not received from the State/Union territory Legislatures

@ Excluding Speaker/Chairman

(a) Arunachal Congress-2

(b) Rashtriya Janata Dal-12; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

(c) Nominated-1

(d) United Goans Democratic Party-1; Save Goa Front-2; and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party-2

(e) Indian National Lok Dal-9

(f) Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

(g) Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-17; Rashtriya Janata Dal-7; All Jharkhand Students Union-2; United Goans Democratic Party-2; All India Forward Bloc-2; Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist)-1; Jharkhand Party-1; and Nominated-1

(h) Kannada Chalavali Vatal Paksha-1; Kannada Naadu Paksha-1; Republican Party of India-1; and Nominated-1

(i) Muslim League-7; Kerala Congress (M)-7; Kerala Congress-4; Revolutionary Socialist Party-3; Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (Secular)-1; Kerala Congress (B)-1; Janathipathya Samrakshana Samithi-1; Indian National League-1; and Nominated-1

(j) Samajwadi Party-7; Gondwana Gantantra Party-3; Rashtriya Samanta Dal-2; and Nominated-1

(k) Shiv Sena-56; Jan Surajya Shakti-4; Peasants and Workers Party-2; Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; Swatantra Bharat Paksha-1; Akhil Bharatiya Sena-1; and Nominated-1

(l) Shiv Sena-10; Peasants and Workers Party-1; Republican Party of India (A)-1; and Lok Bharti-1

(m) Manipur Peoples' Party-5; Rashtriya Janata Dal-3; and National Peoples' Party-3

(n) Mizo National Front-23; Mizoram Peoples' Conference-2; and Zoram National Party-2

(o) Biju Janata Dal-61; Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-4; and Orissa Gana Parishad-2

(p) Indian National Lok Dal-3; and Lok Jan Shakti Party-1

(q) Uttarakhand Party-3; Nominated-1; and Others-3

(r) Samajwadi Party-38; Rashtriya Lok Dal-6; Samajwadi Janata Dal (Rashtriya)-1; and Sikchhak Dal (Non-Political)-8

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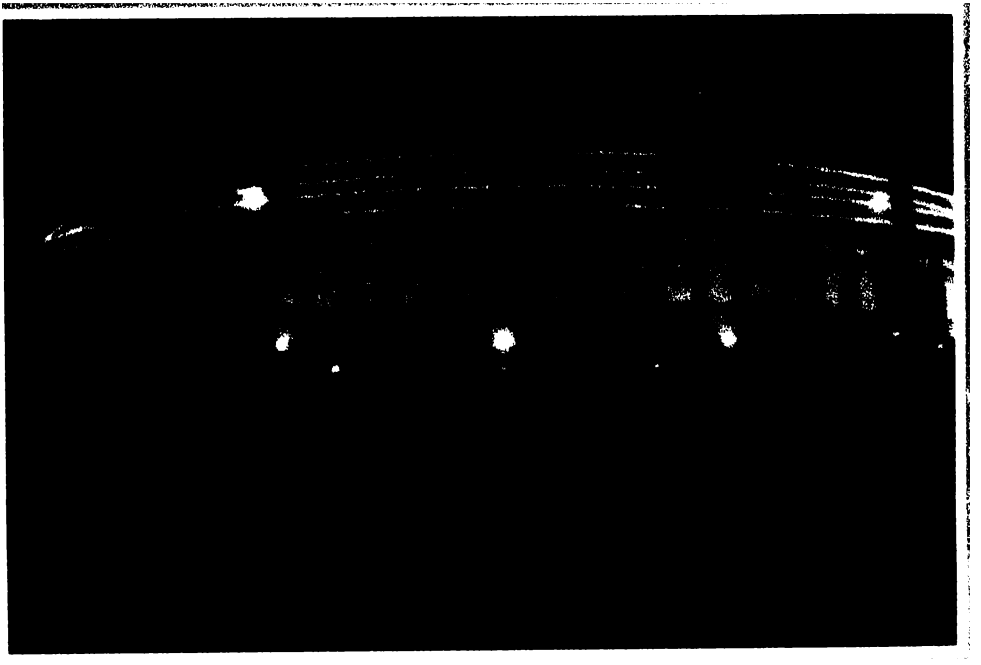

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